Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel-Jordan Accord Initialed; Signing in 10 Days

TA1710135994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The peace agreement between Israel and Jordan was initialed in Amman some 35 minutes ago. The signing ceremony was preceded by statements by King Husayn and Prime Minister Rabin. The full signing ceremony for the peace accord will be held in 10 days in the 'Arava. Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan reports that the White House chief of staff has announced that President Clinton may take part in the signing. [passage omitted]

Speaking at a news conference after initialing the agreement, Rabin said that the border of peace between Israel and Jordan is based on the international line as determined during the British Mandate, and only small adjustments were made to it. According to Rabin, neither of the countries has lost territory to the other. On the issue of the distribution of water, the prime minister said that short-, mid-, and long-term solutions were found.

In reply to a question, King Husayn said that the borders between Israel and Jordan will open soon and that he will visit Jerusalem. The king said that he must present the agreement for the approval of the Amman parliament and government. He noted that the agreement mentions only small border adjustments. No one lost, everyone gained, and we have regained our lands, thank God, Husayn said.

Prime Minister Rabin said that the agreement requires the approval of the government and the Knesset, and only after copies of the agreement between the two countries are exchanged will the timetable for the normalization stages be determined.

Both the left-wing and right-wing Knesset factions congratulated the government on the peace agreement with Jordan.

Rabin Comments on Accord

TA1710133094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1217 GMT 17 Oct 94

[Statement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the ceremony for initialling the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty draft at the Hashimiyah Palace in Amman—live; in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Your Majesty, Your Highness, the prime minister of Jordan, the foreign minister of Israel, dignitaries of the Jordanian Administration, ladies and gentlemen: It is a great, historic day. It is the first peace treaty that will be initialed by Israel since the convening of the Madrid Peace Conference. The Madrid Peace Conference set as its purpose to achieve comprehensive peace between all the Arab neighboring countries, Israel, and the Palestinians. And no doubt that for us, for Israel, for the people of Israel, there is a very soft point and warm admiration to the courage of King Husayn, the leader of this country and people during period of trials, wars, development, and no doubt the unique courage that is so characteristic of King Husayn in whatever he has done—both in to take a courageous decision to put an end to the war between Jordan and Israel, to help the Washington Declaration in which we ended the state of belligerency between Jordan and Israel, and to guide the efforts since then to the working of the committees in al-'Aqabah and Elat, in the south of the Lake of the Galilee, in Amman—to bring us to build a structure of peace; peace which is based on international law, legitimate rights of independent, sovereign people and, above all, peace with dignity, dignity to both sides.

We have decided about the major elements that are needed to bring about the signing of the peace treaty, the initialing of the peace treaty. I believe, and for me especially, it is a unique day. It started today as a foggy day but ended with bright sun. The sun is shining, and I am sure what has been done by you, Your Majesty, by your colleagues, the Jordanian side, and those on the part of Israel will serve as a cornerstone for a new Middle East in which peace, development, cooperation will replace animosity, hatred, violence, and wars. I believe it is a very important day to both our countries and our people, but I believe also, above all, it is a source of inspiration, an example, that peace is attainable. And for that, Your Majesty, I would like to thank you for your courage, vision, and determination. Thank you very much.

King Husayn Comments on Accord

TA1710134594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1210 GMT 17 Oct 94

[Statement by King Husayn at the ceremony at which the draft of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty is initialed at the al-Hashimiyah Palace in Amman—live, in English; broadcast in progress]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ...my deep gratitude on behalf of both of us, (?the feeling) that carried the negotiations between us, as agreed at the very outset to this point in time. But, hopefully, we will witness shortly the initialing of the peace treaty with our two countries and preparation for the coming events that will follow when we ratify it, with all the annexes, and then preparation for the very, very important document going to the constitutional levels in both our countries. I would like to.... [passage unmonitorable due to moderator's superimposed remarks in Hebrew] ...dignity [word indistinct] a chance to live and to achieve what we (?shall find).

I would like to send a few words to my family here in Jordan. I would like to say to the people of Israel that we

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are very, very happy. At this point, we are full of hope and confidence that the future will be a future of peace, that this step will be a very important one in what we are all committed to: a comprehensive peace in this region. But between us, hopefully, it is a fresh beginning and a fresh start. We will guard it, and I hope that generations beyond us will guard it, enjoy it, and cherish it. This is a very important part of the world for all the followers of the three [word indistinct] monotheistic religions, the children of Abraham. I believe that we are coming together in the right way. I thank you, and I feel proud to be associated with you in this effort, and I call our friends [words indistinct] for the Israeli [word indistinct]. Thank you.

Jordan's al-Tarawinah Views Talks

TA1410160294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 14 Oct 94 pp 15, 26

[Interview with Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, chief Jordanian delegate to the peace talks, by Smadar Peri, introduced as "his first interview ever to an Israeli newspaper;" place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Peri] Dr. al-Tarawinah, when will Israel and Jordan sign a peace agreement?

[Al-Tarawinah] As far as I am concerned, it does not matter at all. What matters much more is that we agree on the substance and finalize all the minor details that will be included in the agreement's addenda and will shape the relationship between us. I attribute much greater importance to these addenda than to the ceremony at the White House.

To illustrate my point: It seems to me that the Israeli-Palestinian experience has not been very successful. You started out by signing an agreement with them, and now you are negotiating the minor details. That was a mistake.

[Peri] A meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and King Husayn is slated to take place next week. What kind of report will you place on the king's desk in anticipation of that meeting?

[Al-Tarawinah] Although I know nothing of a scheduled meeting, I may definitely have good news prior to it. I brief his highness daily, and I try to present a truthful picture of the other side's stand. Yet I must emphasize: There are still disagreements between the sides.

[Peri] What is the biggest stumbling block?

[Al-Tarawinah] From Jordan's standpoint, there are two sensitive issues: the 'Arava areas, which we regard as occupied territories, and the water problem.

Israel moved the British Mandate border, which we are trying to demarcate, eastward on the pretext that it was necessary for the State of Israel's defense. We are now in the midst of peace negotiations, and we must demarcate the peace border. The "defense reason" that made you move the border no longer exits. That is the whole story. And this—I reiterate—is a very sensitive issue for us. When sovereignty is on the agenda, the sensitivity is political, and when territories are, land is a sacred value.

[Peri] According to reports, you are demanding that Israel hand 385 square km in the 'Arava over to you.

[Al-Tarawinah] More or less.

[Peri] After the border is demarcated, will Israel be forced to move 'Arava settlements or kibbutzim?

[Al-Tarawinah] As far as I know, there are no kibbutzim or moshavim on the territory we are demanding.

[Peri] Will a territorial swap be possible? For instance, Israel would give you a larger area in the northern sector of the 'Arava, in exchange for which you would give it areas near Elat.

[Al-Tarawinah] We have not reached that point yet. We must start demarcating the existing border and make it a permanent border. After the committees complete their work, the decision will be relegated to the highest political echelons on your side and ours.

[Peri] What proof have you furnished to support your territorial demands?

[Al-Tarawinah] Presenting proof is no problem for us. There are many documents, maps, and testimonies. We will even use the contents of a book by a former Israeli minister, Arik Sharon, in which he reveals that Israel moved the fence on its 'Arava border with Jordan "for security reasons."

[Peri] You have a big account to settle with Arik Sharon, who declared that "Jordan is Palestine."

[Al-Tarawinah] Declarations of this kind are useless. Still, today we are negotiating with an Israeli Government in which Arik Sharon is not a member. This Israeli Government has made a commitment to negotiate on the basis of agreed principles.

[Peri] What does it do to you to hear statements such as the one that "Jordan is Palestine?"

[Al-Tarawinah] They amuse me. I do not take them seriously. This declaration is ridiculous. Just as there is a Jordanian identity, there is a Palestinian one. It is true that some Palestinians are in search of headlines, or a job, or a flag. But as a rule, they aspire to a homeland of their own in the West Bank, not on our territory.

[Peri] How far away are we from signing a peace agreement?

[Al-Tarawinah] The truth? I do not have an answer. A breakthrough may be achieved in next week's round of talks. Or it may not. Next month, Prime Minister Rabin will be in the United States, and I assume that your delegation head, Eli Rubinstein, will accompany him. Who knows what will happen by then.

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I repeat: We disagree on three issues: border demarcation, security, and water. I see no significant problems with any other issues.

[Peri] What kind of peace will we have with you?

[Al-Tarawinah] A warm peace. If you look at Jordan's central position, the openness of its regime, and the excellent work we have been doing, you must reach the conclusion that there will be a warm peace. Although we have no natural resources, we have potential.

Unfortunately, we have been vulnerable over the years—the victims of every event in this region. Each time we scored any achievements, they would be wasted on conflicts, tensions, or wars. Our political cards were reshuffled, and that put us right back in the same instability.

If we want to occupy a key place in the region and to establish good relations with you and the Palestinians, a cold peace will not serve us well. I definitely call for a warm peace between us that will serve as an example for the peace you will achieve with Syria and Lebanon.

[Peri] Peace between Syria and Israel does not loom over the horizon as yet. Does this fact affect your decision on signing a peace agreement with Israel?

[Al-Tarawinah] I believe all the sides agree that without comprehensive peace, pockets of instability will remain in the region and, consequently, a warm peace will be unattainable. But owing to the special nature of the negotiations on each specific track, the absence of progress on a certain track should not affect the other tracks.

[Peri] Thousands of Israelis are already dreaming about a visit to Petra. This week, I met dozens of Jordanians in Elat and Tel Aviv. Why is it that they can do it and we cannot?

[Al-Tarawinah] It is true that Jordanians have no problem to receive entry visas to Israel, but as long as we have not finalized certain issues with you, we take a very serious view of the security dimension. We cannot permit Israelis to roam Jordan until all the problems are resolved.

You must understand: Our people will feel that although some sensitive and fundamental issues remain unresolved, we continue making gestures to Israel. We have already opened a border terminal in the 'Arava, set up a direct telephone line between the two countries, and soon the al-'Aqabah and Elat electricity grids will be linked. This is enough, for the time being. When we reach an agreement, I am sure everything will be normal.

[Peri] We hear voices from your opposition, too.

[Al-Tarawinah] Certainly. We have two kinds of opposition: those who oppose peace with Israel for ideological reasons and those who oppose for political reasons. It is just like your having opponents to the agreement with the Palestinians and to peace with Syria. If the negotiations are stalled and if I am unable to show tangible results, the opposition will grow.

[Peri] The Israelis report a pleasant, positive, and very relaxed atmosphere at the negotiations with you. They say this is the first time talks with an Arab delegation are straightforward.

[Al-Tarawinah] I feel the same. There is a good atmosphere, and the discussions are conducted in a civilized manner. We have no taboos or complexes vis-a-vis the Israelis. The working relations have been good since the first or second encounter. [passage omitted]

[Peri] What advice would you give the Israeli businessman?

[Al-Tarawinah] To be patient and to remember that there is good potential. We will be unable to open the door broadly, and we will not permit Israeli businessmen to open offices in Amman until an agreement on border demarcation and the water problem is achieved.

[Peri] Is the border demarcation liable to become a painful problem?

[Al-Tarawinah] I hope it will not, but if you insist on avoiding a solution, no agreement will be signed. For us, it is a matter of principle. Just make sure that you do not turn the 'Arava border demarcation into a second Taba. Negotiations can drag on for a year or two or three. There are many surprises and "sweets" in this agreement, but if we put them on ice, they may lose their flavor and go sour. [passage omitted]

Gaps Narrowed at Paris Arms Control Talks

TA1410152194 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Oct 94 p 2

[Report by Paris-based correspondent Gid'on Kouts]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting of the multilateral arms control and regional security working group in Paris has ended without the sides being able to draft the general document of intents called for during the plenum meeting in Qatar.

At the same time, it has been learned that the differences of opinion have been narrowed significantly. One of the remaining controversies is over Egypt's demand that all the signatories undertake to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Contacts are to continue in a bid to reach an acceptable draft by the next meeting of the working group slated to be held in Jordan next month. In such an event, it will be possible to sign the document during the next plenum meeting in Tunis in December.

Teams of the participating countries left for Germany to attend maneuvers prepared especially for them. The visit included observation of naval exercises and the operations of a conflict control center. France, the host

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country, promised to convene another seminar dealing with threat assessment next year.

Maneuvers were held in two separate rooms at Paris' International Convention Center: the conceptual room and the operations room. In the conceptual discussion, the sides presented position papers; Israel's paper dealt with regional arms control, while the Egyptian one dealt with the necessary elements for the beginning of cooperation. The atmosphere was reported to be excellent and businesslike.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jordan, PLO Conflict Over Jerusalem Mufti Noted

JN1710100194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Differences between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority on the supervision of the Islamic holy sites in the city of Jerusalem have surfaced publicly. Due to these differences, Jerusalem today has two muftis. The Jordanian Council of Ministers yesterday appointed Shaykh 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abidin as the new mufti for Jerusalem to succeed Shaykh Sulayman al-Ja'bari, who passed away last week.

Only hours after the Jordanian decision, it was announced in Gaza last night that the president of the Palestinian National Authority [Yasir 'Arafat] had appointed Shaykh 'Ikrimah Sa'id Sabri as the new mufti of Jerusalem. Yasir 'Arafat's spokesman said this decision was made the day before yesterday, that is, before the issuance of the Jordanian decision.

Whatever the case, the issue of supervising the Islamic holy sites was and is still a point of contention between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides. In light of these differences, it is still unknown who will assume the post of the mufti of Jerusalem. Is it going to be Shaykh 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abidin, who was appointed by the Jordanian side, or Shaykh 'Ikrimah Sa'id Sabri, who was appointed by the Palestinian side?

Arab League Chief Welcomes Iraqi-Russian Statement

NC1510151094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has expressed hopes that all Security Council resolutions related to the gulf crisis will be fully implemented. He called for securing Iraq's clear, explicit, and official recognition of the sovereignty, independence, and intentional borders of the State of Kuwait, in accordance with Security Council Resolution 833.

Speaking to reporters today in reply to a question on the Arab League's position regarding the Iraqi-Russian joint statement, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid hoped that all measures leading to resolving the question of Kuwaiti and other prisoners of war, those missing in action, and detainees in Iraq will be taken as soon as possible. He added that the Arab League General Secretariat views the Iraqi-Russian statement as a step toward building confidence and creating conditions for alleviating and lifting the sanctions imposed on the fraternal Iraqi people, whose severe suffering is felt by all Arab states.

Arab League Source Affirms Boycott To Continue

NC1510113294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 15 Oct 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Arab sources have clarified that the Arab boycott of Israel cannot be lifted unless the Arab League decides to do so, particularly since the league voted to impose the boycott.

The sources said that if the reasons that originally led to the boycott are removed—that is, the occupation of Arab lands by Israel and the usurpation of Arab rights—if this image of Israel is changed, and if a practical peace is started on all the Arab tracks and progress is made on all of them, then it would only be natural for the Arab League to issue a political resolution to end its boycott.

The Arab League affirmed in a statement it issued recently that the Arab decision to boycott Israel will continue as long as none of the member countries submits a memorandum to place this topic on the Arab League's agenda.

The Arab Boycott of Israel Office is implementing the boycott decisions and reviewing the positions of companies and institutions to make sure they are abiding by the boycott.

If it is proven that they are not, they will be warned first. After that, they will be boycotted themselves and will be blacklisted until they respond to these principles.

The Arab Boycott Office also settles all issues presented to it by studying the documents from the various sides. Ships and companies proven to have broken the boycott laws are also blacklisted.

It is worth mentioning here that those that have been removed from the boycott list are 23 Liberian ships, two Greek ships, and one Bahamian ship. Also removed were one company each from Switzerland, Scotland, Romania, France, Italy, and Austria; six Liberian companies; and three Zairian companies.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 7 Oct

NC1410142094

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 7 October issue of the

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Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Writer Reviews Book on Women Banned by Authorities
2. Yemeni Foreign Minister Interviewed
3. Writer Says Muslims in CIS Need Help of Other Muslims
4. Female Students File Charges Over Headscarf Ban

WRITER REVIEWS BOOK ON WOMEN BANNED BY AUTHORITIES

On page 6, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus contributes a 1,000-word article reviewing a book by 77-year-old Haj Ahmad Hasanayn, who belongs to the Muslim Brotherhood leadership. The book, which has been banned by the authorities and its author jailed, discusses the role and status of women in Islamic society and maintains that according to Islam, women are equal to men in everything but becoming imams, a position reserved for men only. 'Abd-al-Quddus reviews some of the arguments presented in the book. He notes that the book argues in favor of women voting in general and other elections, which is not the case in many countries that allegedly apply Islamic shari'ah. He condemns State Security for banning the book and jailing its author—a move, he says, that refutes the claim that there is freedom of expression under Mubarak.

YEMENI FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED

On page 8 there is a 500-word interview with Yemeni Foreign Affairs Minister Muhammad Salin Basindwah by an unidentified correspondent. Basindwah discusses the current situation in Yemen and Arab developments.

WRITER SAYS MUSLIMS IN CIS NEED HELP OF OTHER MUSLIMS

Kamal Habib writes a 400-word article on page 8 entitled "The Muslims in Russia: The Dangers of Converting Them to Christianity." He notes that the West follows up any new developments in the Muslim CIS states with great interest and attempts to move in with its religious ideals before any Muslim values and doctrines take hold there. He maintains that the Protestant societies of the West are backed by Jews and are spreading Christianity throughout these states to hinder the spread of Islam. He concludes: "The Muslims of Russia and new Islamic Republics need all the help they can get from all Muslims so that they can confront the challenges, in particular the danger of Christianization."

FEMALE STUDENTS FILE CHARGES OVER HEADSCARF BAN

A 200-word report on page 9 by Khalid Yunus notes that female students who wear the Islamic headscarf have filed a case with the courts against the education minister and school principals charging that they were dismissed from school because they wear headscarves. Lawyer Dr. 'Abd-al-Halim Mandur, who filed the case on behalf of the girls, maintains that wearing the headscarf is a private affair.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 11 Oct

NC1510155294

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 11 October issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Writer Blames Gulf Crisis On Blockade
2. Islamic Writer Raps U.S. Hegemony, Advocates Islamic Solution
3. Writer Views Conflict Between Enemies, Advocates of Islam
4. Writer Argues State Violence Breeds Counterviolence

WRITER BLAMES GULF CRISIS ON BLOCKADE

In a 1,000-word report on pages 1 and 7 of the 11 October edition of AL-SHA'B, Mahmud Bakri views the crisis in the Gulf resulting from Iraq's military buildup in the border area with Kuwait. He notes that the deadline set for Iraq by the Security Council, which is "under U.S domination," requesting that the report of the UN Special Commission led by "CIA agent" Rolf Ekeus set a date for lifting the "unjust blockade" of Iraq ended on 10 October. He says that this "criminal embargo" has so far left one million Iraqis dead, starved the nation, and caused epidemics. He notes that Washington swiftly dispatched tens of thousands of troops along with aircraft carriers and other warships to the region and that Washington declared that hundreds of cruise missiles are aimed at the heart of Baghdad. He says Washington is doing this even though Iraq has emphasized that moving its forces is "within the framework of its legitimate right to deploy its forces within its national borders." He says this right is emphasized in the Security Council resolution on the cease-fire of 1991.

Bakri says that the Iraqi development comes as a result of "pressure by the masses and military officers demanding a response to the unjust embargo," which has turned the life of the Iraqi people into hell. He claims that "Iraqi military commands" demanded "certain action" to force the international community to respond to the Iraqi demands. He argues that the "serious deterioration in living conditions" in Iraq has increased the growing popular and official wrath against the "unjust aggressive forces."

Writing in the same vein, Salah Budaywi, in an 800-word article on AL-SHA'B's page 2, says that under pressure from the U.S. Government, as U.S. Secretary of State Christopher admits in an article he wrote in THE NEW

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YORK TIMES, two Gulf countries rejected Iraqi overtures to open a dialogue with the Gulf countries. He says that AL-SHA'B has obtained a report revealing the role of certain Gulf countries in maintaining the blockade on Iraq. He notes that before the recent crisis surfaced, reports by various international committees and organizations demonstrated the serious impact of the blockade on the "fraternal Iraqi people." He says that one million Iraqis have died in the past four years as a result of the embargo due to acute shortages of food, not to mention rampant famine and epidemics. This has happened even though Iraq has complied with all Security Council resolutions, according to the UN envoy Rolf Ekeus' report, and despite sympathy with for lifting the embargo on Iraq by three permanent Security Council members—Russia, the PRC, and France. It has become clear to the Iraqi Government, Budaywi notes, that the Security Council is subject to U.S. instructions, which have caused the "martyrdom of one million Iraqis."

ISLAMIC WRITER RAPS U.S. HEGEMONY, ADVOCATES ISLAMIC SOLUTION

In a 1,200 word article entitled "God Is Great" on page 5, Islamic writer Mustafa Mashhur States that the call "God is Great" will continue to reverberate until Islam spreads throughout the world. He says that God is greater than the arrogant forces in either East or West. "We say this to Clinton and his ilk, who now control the fates of peoples through military power or unfair and aggressive economic blockades and who legitimize their injustice through international institutions such the United Nations and the Security Council, which they use as puppets." The examples are ample and evident in Somalia and Haiti, and in what is happening to the Iraqi and Libyan peoples and to the Muslim peoples of Bosnia and Kashmir, he says. This shows the West's democracy is false, Mashhur notes.

Discussing the domestic situation in Egypt, Mashhur says "in dawn visits security men raid the homes of Muslim Brotherhood members and unfairly arrest them even though they have committed any crimes or acts of violence. All they did was to preach Islamic teachings in a peaceful way." He says that what concerns these elderly and sober members is reform, the application of Islamic shari'ah, and propagation of the tenet "Islam is the solution." They are exercising their right in accordance with the constitution through official establishments in a country which claims that Islam is its official religion. He says that the main task of any regime is to reform all political, economic, and social aspects of the homeland. He argues that this goal can only be achieved in an atmosphere of security, stability, freedom, and sound representation in legislative assemblies. Noting that certain regimes seek to feign stability through repression, restrictions, and exceptional laws and by denying opponents free expression, Mashhur says the current government is enacting laws restricting the press and appointing its supporters to all important posts. It confronts violence with counterviolence, military trials, and executions. He stresses that this method will not bring about true stability and that the only solution is by applying Islamic shari'ah.

WRITER VIEWS CONFLICT BETWEEN ENEMIES, ADVOCATES OF ISLAM

In his 300-word column on page 12, Islamic writer Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali views the conflict between world colonialism and Islam. He argues that Egypt, like other Islamic countries, has been "plagued with man-made laws" which replaced the Islamic shari'ah. He says that world colonialism believes that "this shari'ah must vanish as a prelude to destroying Islam." Colonialism has long sought to achieve this goal and Muslims have continued to resist. We do not know what the future holds in store, he says. Summing up, he says what is at issue is that there are Muslims who want to revive the obsolete teachings of Islam and infidels who want to destroy what remains alive of Islam. He says the conflict will be protracted but we hope that the advocates of Islam will succeed in following the mission of Islam: To address all aspects of life. He notes that the recent defeats that have befallen the Muslims were inherent and are the fault of the ruling "pharaohs" and our stupid imitation of the West.

WRITER ARGUES STATE VIOLENCE BREEDS COUNTERVIOLENCE

In his 500-word regular column on page 12, Islamic writer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus wonders why the security situation in Egypt is still unstable 13 years after President Mubarak assumed power, culminating in the attempts on the lives of the prime minister and interior minister. He maintains that though there is a popular consensus rejecting terrorism, acts of terror are continuing. He argues that the reason behind terrorism is the "feeling of injustice," stressing that there are many factors feeding this feeling. He notes that such factors as routine torture in jails, persecution of the Islamic current and denying it free expression, and the failure to distinguish between terrorists and Islamists increase the youths' love of martyrdom in defense of Islam. In addition, social injustice, class discrimination, and rife corruption breed and enhance the feeling of injustice and resistance. He argues that the government relies "only on brute force in confronting terrorism." The people are faced with two bitter options: Terrorism and extremism, or a corrupt, despotic regime. He says that the people reject both options.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 11 Oct

NC1510085194

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 11 October issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

Contents:

1. Writers View Gulf Crisis, Bosnia

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2. Female Circumcision Debated
3. Preachers Protest Ministry's Test
4. Family Rights Under Islam Viewed
5. Ending Isolation of Religious Media Urged

WRITERS VIEW GULF CRISIS, BOSNIA

The crisis in the Gulf resulting from the Iraqi troop buildup on the borders with Kuwait and the dispatch of U.S. and other troops to the region to defend Kuwait are commented on by a number of 'AQIDATI writers. In an approximately 600-word column on page 6 entitled "Saddam's Adventures and the New Losses for Muslims," columnist Basyni al-Halawani links the Gulf crisis to the situation in Bosnia. He writes: "It seems that Saddam Husayn's adventure is a new ploy to keep Muslims and the whole world busy from the dirty massacre committed by the Serbs against the Muslim people of Bosnia- Herzegovina." Explaining his argument, al-Halawani notes that "star Saddam" has once again returned to the limelight and his name has cropped up in all newscasts, at the expense of news about Bosnia. Noting that this publicity has fulfilled much of Saddam's ambitions, the writer points out that these ambitions will cost the Arab and Islamic nation a "high price" in terms of its resources, security, and stability. Al-Halawani urges the world community to deal from a humanitarian standpoint with Iraqi people, who have suffered for long because of the international blockade, and notes that the current international position in favor of continuing the blockade "will turn Saddam Husayn into a national hero in the eyes of his own people."

Another columnist, Majdi Salim, also links the Gulf crisis to the situation in Bosnia. In his approximately 500-word column on page 10 entitled "Bosnia, Iraq, and the Killing of Birds," Salim writes that as he has expected, the United States reneged on its promise to submit a draft proposal to the Security Council calling for lifting the embargo on arms exports to the Muslims of Bosnia. He notes that changing the political position was not enough to distract the attention of the world public and accordingly, another way out of the "predicament of the Americans" had to be found. He continues: "For them to kill several birds with one stone, it wouldn't harm to reignite the situation in the Gulf once again," thus offering Saddam another chance to start a new adventure that would stir the anxiety of the Gulf states and "lead them to offer millions and even billions to seek Western protection." Concluding, Salim writes: "As for the ruling Iraqi regime, it will remain an abscess to be inflamed by the enemies of Arabs and Muslims anytime and in any way they want until the role drawn for him is over, his power is fully destroyed, and his people are humiliated, all at the expense of Islamic power."

An approximately 1,200-word article by Ashraf Abu-al-Hawl on page 20 doubts that Saddam Husayn would be "stupid enough" to occupy Kuwait once again. The writer believes that Saddam sent his troops near the border with Kuwait to pressure the Security Council into alleviating the sanctions imposed on Iraq. Another possibility, he adds, could be that Saddam's troop buildup in the south is intended to distract the world away from a potential attack on the Kurds in the north. Abu-Al-Hawl adds that if Saddam did invade Kuwait once again, which is a very remote possibility, it would be utter madness and out of desperation. He adds: "Clinton is not the only one who deep down in his heart wishes that Saddam makes this mistake. thus giving him the opportunity to flex his military muscles, as demonstrated by his Cruise and Tomahawk missiles, Stealth aircraft, Apache anti-tank helicopters, and other sophisticated weapons. British Prime Minister John Major wishes the same thing to protect his government from collapse." Comparing Iraq's sanctions to those imposed on Serbia, the writer notes that Saddam believes that he has paid a very high price for his crime, higher than what the Serbian president had to pay, and yet the sanctions on Serbia have been alleviated.

FEMALE CIRCUMCISION DEBATED

'AQIDATI Board Chairman Samir Rajab, in his approximately 400-word column on page 1, criticizes the Egyptian Health Ministry for "tarnishing Egypt's image." Following the CNN report showing a young Egyptian girl being circumcised, the health minister issued a decree forming what is called the Higher Committee for Female Circumcision, thus opening the door for all kinds of people to give their opinion, be it right or wrong, he adds. Rajab continues: "The health minister has made a grave error by forming this committee, and the decision made in this regard regrettably lacks political awareness." As a politician, Rajab notes, the minister should have first chosen appropriate timing before involving the state in an issue "settled by religion and law a long time ago."

Mufti of the republic, Shaykh Sayyid Tantawi, does not share Rajab's belief that female circumcision is a matter settled by religion. In a statement by his office published on page 9, Mufti Tantawi argues that unlike male circumcision, female circumcision has not been found to be backed by authenticated and well-documented prophet's sayings. Sayings attributed to the prophet on female circumcision are generally treated as "weak"; that is, lacking proper documentation, he adds. The mufti adds that female circumcision in Egypt is a habit picked up by one generation after another but is about to become extinct. "If so, I believe that the final word on the issue of female circumcision rests with the specialized doctors," he adds. "If they decide that performing female circumcision is harmful, it should not be done. If they say otherwise, the Health Ministry in Egypt must adopt all the legal measures to ensure that this operation on females is done with protection, honor, and human dignity that preserves the girl's femininity."

PREACHERS PROTEST MINISTRY'S TEST

A decision by the Awqaf Ministry to link the annual evaluation report on preachers to the need for them to

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pass a reading test is being protested by preachers. An unattributed approximately 250-word report on page 2 quotes Shaykh Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Ati, inspector of mosques in al-Daqahliyah, as saying that the decision is both "arbitrary and unjust." Another preacher, Shaykh 'Ali al-Sayyid Sukkar from South Sinai, says that "it would be more worthwhile for the ministry to resolve the problems of preachers instead of creating more problems for them."

FAMILY RIGHTS UNDER ISLAM VIEWED

An 'AQIDATI convoy's visit to the Regional Union of Charity Societies is discussed by Mamduh al-'Ashri and Yasir Zayn al-Din in an approximately 4,000-word report on pages 4 and 5. The theme of this week's convoy, a team of ulema and writers from the newspaper that tours various places in the country, is family rights under Islam. Speaking in the seminar, Dr. Su'ad Salih, dean of the College of Islamic and Arab Studies for Girls in al-Mansurah, notes that Islam treats the concept of family with the respect it deserves for family in Islam has purposes, one of which is organizing the question of sex. Recognizing the sexual drive inherent in both men and women, Islam organizes it and channels it toward a single path: lawful marriage. She adds: "Any other relationship is sinful, not only in Islam, but in all heavenly religions." Another purpose, she adds, is reproduction, and reproduction in Islam means producing a "strong" and healthy offspring. The third purpose of family in Islam, she points out, is the sound upbringing of children to serve society.

To a question from the audience on female circumcision, Dr. Salih points out this habit dates back to pre-Islamic society and exists in all heavenly religions. Although it is not required by the Islamic religion, female circumcision is desirable, she notes, adding that it should be performed by a specialized doctor so it does not harm the girl involved.

For his part, 'AQIDATI Chief Editor al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf attributes the current controversy over female circumcision to the report broadcast by CNN showing an Egyptian girl being circumcised. Describing the report as "absurd" and ill timed, he adds: "Unfortunately, the Western and Zionist media worldwide are seeking to distort the image of Egypt and of Islam, which they portray as a religion that violates the dignity and honor of women, contrary to the truth."

ENDING ISOLATION OF RELIGIOUS MEDIA URGED

An unattributed 500-word report on page 20 describes a seminar on "The Influence of Modern Means of Communication on Islamic Societies" held by an organization called ISESCO in cooperation with the League of Islamic Universities in Cairo. During the seminar, Islamic media experts noted that the Islamic world is lagging behind in terms of the availability of communication and information systems, which contribute considerably to making fundamental changes in the political, economic, cultural, and social affairs of society. In the meantime, the experts say, "the Western world, in view of its scientific advances, continues to dominate and monopolize this communication technology and, accordingly, is in a position to influence other societies, including Islamic societies." The experts add that the Islamic world possesses only 5 percent of the world television channels, a quarter of radio transmitters, and one- sixth of the total number of published periodicals. This, the experts add, is the result of the absence of "a media strategy" to confront the prevailing world media order, as well as the lack of attention given to the role of the media in preserving Islamic beliefs and consolidating the cultural identity. The experts call for ending the isolation of what they describe as a "religious media," which has led to "separating religion from day-to-day life and confining it to matters of religious rites and legislation."

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Leader in Gaza Comments on Kidnapping

Fate Up To 'Military Arm'

TA1410121794 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 14 Oct 94 p 4

[Interview with Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, by correspondent 'Oded Granot in Gaza on 13 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Granot] There were reports that you met with Yasir 'Arafat on the kidnapping affair.

[Al-Zahhar] I did not meet with him or speak to him about this.

[Granot] Where is Nahshon Wachsman being held?

[Al-Zahhar] I do not know. The kidnappers know. The 'Izz-al- Din al-Qassam squads are everywhere, in the north and south of Palestine.

[Granot] What does Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] say about this act?

[Al-Zahhar] The kidnapping is not an end; it is a means for the release of all our prisoners. All the means taken so far, all the attempts to conduct negotiations, and all the contacts between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the Israeli authorities have failed. The complaints filed with the human rights association, the demonstrations, and the pleas and protests by women and children did not help. We were left with no other choice but to take the road that has been taken on several occasions in the past, and I believe that the Israeli Government is to blame for this. Had it freed our prisoners, we would not have needed the kidnapping.

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[Granot] There were reports that Israel was about to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

[Al-Zahhar] Israel leaked the report only after the kidnapping, to make you and other reporters think that the kidnapping is delaying the release of Shaykh Yasin. Instead of releasing him in 1992, when Nisim Toledano was kidnapped, Israel chose to arrest 2,500 and deport 400 people to Lebanon. It had its own excuses then. How can it justify the continuous imprisonment of these men now, after it signed the agreement with the PLO? What does Israel want from a prisoner such as Ahmad Yasin? It claims that if he is released and settles in the West Bank, he might instigate terror acts, but what damage could he do if he goes to the Gaza Strip, which is surrounded by an electronic fence? There is no reason not to free him, other than the desire to take revenge and kill him.

[Granot] How do you view Shaykh Yasin's call not to harm Nahshon Wachsman?

[Al-Zahhar] Islam orders us to protect the life of prisoners, but Israel is not protecting the life of POW's and prisoners. How long should this imbalance be maintained? Israel should answer this.

[Granot] Do you mean that Hamas is rejecting Yasin's call?

[Al-Zahhar] Can we hold the kidnapped man forever?!

[Granot] He explicitly urged you not to kill him.

[Al-Zahhar] Shaykh Yasin's call was addressed to the 'Izz-al- Din al-Qassam battalions, which perpetrated the kidnapping, and they will take the call into account. It has nothing to do with the political echelons. It is a matter for the squads.

[Granot] But, do not the squads take orders from the political echelons?

[Al-Zahhar] No. They take orders from the military arm.

[Granot] Do you believe that the shaykh's call carries any weight?

[Al-Zahhar] I believe it also depends on Israel's stand. If Israel persists and if the PA continues attacking us, it would have a negative impact on our decision regarding the kidnapped soldier.

[Granot] Does Hamas intend to engage in an armed confrontation with the PA?

[Al-Zahhar] I believe the PA is about to clash with the Hamas Movement. They started a wave of detentions and other violent acts. On the night between Wednesday [12 October] and Thursday, they broke into my house, damaging doors and windows. The pictures can be seen on Israeli television.

[Granot] Could the clash turn bloody?

[Al-Zahhar] The PA should answer this. Islam dictates Hamas activities, allowing it the right to self-defense.

[Granot] Hamas issued an ultimatum to the Israeli Government. Who in Hamas is in charge of conducting negotiations?

[Al-Zahhar] The kidnappers stated their demands clearly, demanding that Israel announce that Shaykh Yasin will be freed. We have had bad experiences with this. We know that in such incidents Israel is being arrogant.

[Granot] Do you believe that Israel will not comply this time as well?

[Al-Zahhar] It is clear that Israel will not free him.

[Granot] You have not even left an address for negotiations.

[Al-Zahhar] What for? So that you can abduct the man just as you kidnapped 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd or Dirani?

[Granot] So that we could, for example, conduct negotiations or receive proof that the soldier is alive.

[Al-Zahhar] If Israel is serious, it should contact the International Red Cross.

[Granot] The International Red Cross was not mentioned in the Hamas announcement.

[Al-Zahhar] Because we do not trust Israel.

[Granot] 'Arafat is trying to help Rabin rescue the soldier.

[Al-Zahhar] If 'Arafat is capable of doing so, let him try.

[Granot] Is the soldier alive?

[Al-Zahhar] A Muslim never breaks his promise. They promised they would not kill him before Friday [14 October].

[Granot] And then?

[Al-Zahhar] In 1992, they killed Toledano. If Israel is serious, it should take the initiative and react immediately.

[Granot] Does the political leadership support his killing?

[Al-Zahhar] The political leadership deals with politics, and the military elements deal with the kidnapping. It is up to them.

[Granot] What do you think about Israel's decision to stop the talks with the PLO in Cairo?

[Al-Zahhar] This is an attempt to squeeze the PLO into making political concessions that are not at all connected with the kidnapping. Israel wants to take advantage of the kidnapping affair in the issue of the elections, to avoid the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment. Israel is being clever, and the PA fails to understand it.

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We previously warned that Israel does not want peace. All it wants is to slam the door on the PLO, and this is what happened. We told them: You will get Gaza and Jericho first and last. The process does not have the power to continue. They received Gaza and Jericho, and you received an opening to the Arab world. Rabin went to Jordan, and Peres went to Tunis; the Gulf has opened for economic ties. What is there now to move the negotiations with the Palestinians forward? Nothing.

Reads Statement

JN1410195394 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1815 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Our brothers in struggle and revolution: Our correspondent in the steadfast Gaza Strip provided us with a report on the news conference held by Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar and Isma'il Haniyah, a Hamas official, at Filstine Mosque immediately after today's Friday prayers and sermon.

Dr. al-Zahhar said: If the Zionist entity releases Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, this will open a chance to delay the deadline set by the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions for killing the kidnapped soldier.

He added: Yesterday we received a number of journalists who asked "let's assume that Rabin announces his intention to free Yasin, will this stop the killing?" Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar said: The objective of the kidnapping is not to kill, but to free the prisoners.

He added: We ask 'Arafat not repeat the failed experience of the enemy, who over 27 years of repression have failed to quell the intifadah.

Isma'il Haniyah said: We emphasize our denunciation of the arrest and storming campaign, and we believe that this campaign was carried out in response to pressure from the Zionist enemy and in implementation of their agreement—he means 'Arafat and his policeman—with the Zionist entity.

He added: We emphasize that no official dialogue was held between Hamas and 'Arafat's authority, but there are contacts aimed to ease tension and problems. Hamas believes that the statements by some members of 'Arafat's authority will not help dialogue, which should be carried out in a calm atmosphere.

In the news conference, al-Zahhar added: The Al-Qassam Battalions are aware of the results of killing more than anyone. The movement does not follow a policy of embarrassing 'Arafat's authority, but wants to free the prisoners.

He added: All options are open for the Zionist entity to launch a military operation because the agreements give them the chance not to respect agreements.

Before the news conference, Dr. al-Zahhar read a statement by Hamas that says: While the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, is proud of the achievement of the victorious 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, which serves the cause of all prisoners, whose cause and sufferings were neglected, it believes that all Palestinians in the so-called Palestinian Authority and elsewhere should support its demands to release all prisoners—men, women, elderly, and youths—led by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

While doing its duty toward the Palestinian prisoners, Hamas calls on every honorable man in the so-called Palestinian Authority to support its demands to immediately release the symbols and leaders of the nation.

The Hamas Movement denounces the arrest of Hamas members carried out by the so-called Palestinian Authority in response to pressure by the terrorist Rabin.

We in the Hamas Movement demand the following:

1. The movement asks all masses of our people to strongly support the demands of the brother captors to free prisoners.

2. Hamas condemns what happened, and urges all masses of our people to condemn the arrests carried out by 'Arafat's authority to appease the Zionist enemy, and to consider the arrests an aggression against all the Palestinian people.

3. Hamas urges the so-called Palestinian Authority to immediately free detainees.

4. Hamas urges all factions and organizations of our people to condemn the 'Arafat's authority's practices against the mujahidin.

5. It asks Arab, local, and international human-rights establishments to immediately and quickly intervene to ensure the release of all detainees.

6. The movement asks the humanitarian establishments to immediately intervene to extend medical treatment to all sick prisoners.

7. The movements urges the people of Palestine who returned and joined the so-called Palestinian Authority to fear God while dealing with their brother mujahidin and to refuse to be an instrument in service of the terrorist Rabin's policy.

This is the responsible position of Hamas on this important and serious issue, which we can end if these demands are met.

[Signed] Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas

Hamas Spokesman Comments on Kidnapping

JN1410183594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 Oct 94

[Interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, by Salim Badawi in Amman on 14 October; from "The Event" program—recorded]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [Ghawshah] The 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, to which this question must be addressed, is known to be highly credible. Rabin would do well to climb down from his high horse and begin releasing some detainees, including Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and the female Palestinian detainees.

[Badawi] Supposing the Israeli Government fails to meet your demands, what will happen?

[Ghawshah] Rabin must meet the demand of freeing Palestinian detainees, who have wives, children, and families, just as in the case of the kidnapped Zionist soldier. If Rabin and his government remain recalcitrant, he should take responsibility for the fate of this Zionist soldier.

[Badawi] Are you saying you will act on your threat to execute the Israeli soldier, or will you heed the calls to spare him, particularly the one issued by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin?

[Ghawshah] Let met make it clear that I cannot speak on behalf of al-Qassam Battalions. However, in my capacity as official political spokesman for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] I am explaining the circumstances. The contents of the interview with Shaykh Ahmad Yasin are not accurate; the television tape is doctored. Rabin and his government must free the detainees. The human dimension in both situations is the same.

[Badawi] Then there is no other way out, say, by extending the deadline or accepting the ransom proposed by the kidnapped Israeli soldier's father?

[Ghawshah] Hamas is a jihad Islamic movement, not a mercenary one. The ransom notion is out. Hamas fights a jihad war of liberation against the Zionist occupation and will keep going. The struggle and fight will go on. No one at all can close the file of the Palestinian people's struggle.

[Badawi] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, what about the contacts or talks disclosed by [Yasir 'Arafat's adviser] Ahmad al-Tibi between Hamas and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] on the release of the kidnapped Israeli soldier?

[Ghawshah] Ahmad al-Tibi revealed a little. The contacts that took place inside the occupied territory were held between Talab al-Sani' [member of the Israeli Knesset] and brother al-Zahhar [leader of Hamas in Gaza], as well as between al-Zahhar and some commanders of the [Palestinian] Preventive Security Department. The Preventive Security Department has threatened Hamas and arrested, as everybody knows, more than 400 people over the past two days. Regrettably, the PNA, led by 'Arafat, was dragged into a confrontation with Hamas, and the PNA submitted to Rabin, knowing that the basic confrontation waged by Hamas was between the Palestinian mujahidin and the Zionist occupation authority.

According to our information, these contacts are still marginal. The Jews refuse to make any goodwill gestures and release some of the detainees. Unless they make such a gesture, nothing positive is expected regarding the captured soldier.

[Badawi] Regarding the PNA reaction, you said this reaction turned the confrontation from one between Hamas and Israel into one between Hamas and the PNA. Did you not expect such a reaction from the Palestinian police?

[Ghawshah] The Palestinian police have been there for several months now and 'Arafat has been in the Gaza Strip for several months as well. It was known that Hamas follows the jihad line to resist the Zionist occupation and the popular political line in its criticism of the Oslo-Cairo accord. However, 'Arafat himself submitted to Rabin in agreeing to confront the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, the leader of the Palestinian opposition. It is known that the soldier was captured inside the Zionist entity, which is inside the occupied Palestinian territory. So far, all indications show that this soldier is not in the Gaza Strip. Therefore, why did 'Arafat volunteer to confront Hamas? This confrontation is considered, on the political and strategic level, much more serious than capturing this soldier, unless there is collusion between Rabin and 'Arafat to use this issue as an excuse for 'Arafat to play this role [to confront Hamas], which the Zionists have been asking 'Arafat to do for a long time.

[Badawi] You are urging Yasir 'Arafat not to bow to the Israeli pressure, and, at the same time, you are embarrassing the PNA by doing such things.

[Ghawshah] My brother, Hamas does not want to embarrass the PNA or to harm the so-called peace process. Hamas is using the language the Israeli occupation understands, namely, resistance and jihad. This will go on for years and even dozens of years. Neither Clinton nor Rabin and 'Arafat can stop this civilized war. Hamas played its militant and jihad role before the Madrid conference and the Oslo agreement. Therefore, neither the authority nor the so- called peace process should be embarrassed.

[Badawi] As long as you do not want to harm the peace process or the PNA, can't you turn to acknowledged political activity while the Palestinian elections are being organized?

[Ghawshah] My brother, the vision of Hamas and the Islamic and national forces of the relationship and the conflict with the Zionist enemy differs from that of the capitulators, who endorsed the Oslo and Cairo agreements and bowed to their conditions. The enemy has invaded Palestine's land and is occupying it after it has expelled its people, who have the right to resist by using stones, machine guns, and any other means, as allowed by the UN and international and religious laws for any nation tested like the Palestinian people.

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[Badawi] You are announcing your decision to carry out other operations in the future. Does this mean that you have not laid down arms in order to achieve certain goals like toppling the current settlement?

[Ghawshah] In fact, as I have said, the battle is a long one. Rabin wants to close its file, which cannot be closed as long as the process is based on injustice and harming the Palestinian people's rights. There may be peace in the region if the country returns to its people and if the people of the country return to Palestine. This is the only way to achieve a true peace. Will the Zionists and the Americans accept this? The answer is no. Therefore, the operations will continue. Capturing soldiers and operations like the one that took place in Jerusalem will continue. While these battles and operations go on, falsehood, the current capitulatory process, and the so-called PNA and the resulting so-called elections of the self-rule authority will disappear.

[Badawi] But in case such operations continue, do you not fear the confrontation will develop into a declared war between you and the PNA and, consequently, the conflict will spread among the Palestinian ranks and among the Palestinian people?

[Ghawshah] This is the difficult equation that Hamas has been observing since the Oslo Agreement. Hamas has always been keen to avoid any inter-Palestinian friction or conflict. However, 'Arafat two days ago violated the national unity and crossed the red line. Therefore, we are certain the Palestinian people will expose this conspiracy and will corner both 'Arafat and the Zionist occupation, in exactly the same way the Lebanese people are doing now with the Lahd army in south Lebanon, which is an indivisible part of the Zionist occupation.

[Badawi] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, how do you react to reports that Hamas' operations are motivated by a foreign power, and more specifically a regional power that opposes the peaceful settlement with Israel?

[Ghawshah] The principles of Hamas are genuine and are determined by two things. First, the Islamic faith and principles, to which it adheres and which are derived from the Holy Koran; and, second, the interests of the Palestinian people alone. Therefore, Hamas' decision are made by Hamas itself. Hamas' organization, power, and leadership are inside the occupied territories. Of course, Hamas has a great deal of credibility among the Arab and Muslim peoples. Undoubtedly, the battle against the Zionist is a cultural one. Hamas now represents the first phase of that war and we are certain that the Muslims and Arabs will sooner or later join us and liberate this area, just as it was liberated by Salah-al-Din more than eight centuries ago.

[Badawi] Thank you, Ibrahim Ghawshah.

'Arafat Informed of Rescue Attempt

TA1410225194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2240 GMT 14 Oct 94

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem from Gaza—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few minutes ago, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi emerged from 'Arafat's office and approached the crowd of journalists waiting outside. Al-Tibi announced that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin phoned PLO leader a short time ago and explained to him in detail the entire sequence of events and why Israel had argued for two days that Nahshon Wachsman was being held in the Gaza Strip. Rabin told him that only this morning did Israel obtain information that the soldier was being held in Bi'r Nabala.

Dr. al-Tibi expressed his sorrow over the casualties and sent his condolences to the family of the murdered soldier. We would like to point out that Dr. al-Tibi spent several days here trying to help secure the release of the soldier, and he was one of them men who consistently claimed that the soldier was not in the Gaza Strip.

Events Said To Prove 'Siege' on Gaza Unfair

TA1410230194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2234 GMT 14 Oct 94

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem in Gaza—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] From the moment the news spread about the incident in Bi'r Nabala in which an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was murdered and about the prime minister and the chief of staff's news conference at 2300, the members of the Palestinian Authority [PA], led by Yasir 'Arafat and the heads of the security organizations, convened in 'Arafat's office. Dozens of journalists from all over the world gathered outside the office to await the PLO's initial reaction. We were promised that 'Arafat would react immediately after the end of the Israeli news conference. When it was over, however, 'Arafat's media adviser Marwan Kanafani approached us and told us that 'Arafat would not react tonight to what was said in the Israeli news conference. Let us listen to what Kanafani has to say:

[Begin Kanafani recording, in English] I don't know why you are fighting. The only thing I want to say here is that the president is not going to make a statement tonight, and he is not going to have a press conference. Tomorrow there will be a meeting of the Palestinian cabinet, and a statement will be issued tomorrow morning, when they met.

However, I would like to tell you that the president is saddened by the news of the human lives that were lost and, you know, this also reiterates the fact that such incidents are the result and not the causes of the delay of the implementation of the [word indistinct]. We feel now that we were accurate in everything we said about the situation. We feel the siege on Gaza was unfair and unneeded and should be lifted immediately. Thank you very much, and we'll have a statement tomorrow.

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Hamas Comments on Israeli Rescue Attempt

Claim 'Moral Victory'

LD1510125494 Tehran IRNA in English 1124 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Oct. 15, IRNA—The Islamic Resistance Movement of Palestine, Hamas, announced here Saturday that it will continue efforts to secure the release of Palestinian strugglers, particularly Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, from the jails of the Zionist regime.

In a statement issued here, Hamas said that the incident of a kidnapped Zionist soldier who was killed in an attack by Israeli commandoes Friday night, would not be the last incident of this kind.

"The failure of the military operations launched by the Israeli commandoes and heavy casualties and losses incurred by them is a military, security and moral victory for Hamas," said the statement a copy of which was made available to IRNA bureau here.

Referring to the attack on the place where the kidnapped soldier was being held which resulted in his killing by the Zionist commandoes, the statement called on Yitzhaq Rabin to release all Palestinian prisoners or else Palestinian combatants would force him to do so by taking more hostages.

The soldiers of criminal Rabin, the statement noted, launched their attack on the base of Palestinian strugglers at a time when Rabin had announced his readiness to consider demands of Hamas and Hamas in turn had declared preparedness to release the hostage.

Rabin 'Treacherous Action' Cited

JN1510134994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has emphasized that the storming operation ordered by Rabin was a treacherous action, and was something expected from terrorist Rabin, according to the text of a statement issued by Hamas.

The statement added that this heroic operation will not be the end. Hamas called on Yitzhaq Rabin to release Hamas prisoners before he is eventually forced to bow and release them by the strikes of its mujahidin and the repeated kidnapping operations.

Hamas had said it was fully prepared to release the captive soldier if the mujahidin demands were met, but Rabin's treason and arrogance led to the killing of the soldier as well as the killing and injury of a number of his soldiers and officers.

Finally, the Hamas statement condemned the humiliating submission by Yasir 'Arafat's authority to Rabin and its disgraceful response through pursuing Hamas members and launching arbitrary arrests among the sons of the Palestinian people in the same barbaric manner as the treacherous enemy forces. It said this threatens to widen the gap between the Palestinian Authority and an important sector of people that supports the Hamas Movement, on the one hand, and threatens the continuation of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, on the other, in light of the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's position.

Official Vows To Continue Operations

LD1510192994 Tehran IRNA in English 1906 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 15 Oct (IRNA)—Representative of the Palestine Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in Tehran, Abu Hamdan, said here today that Hamas would in future launch operations against Zionist security zones in the occupied land.

Abu Hamdan told IRNA that the Zionist regime's Prime Minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, bears the responsibility for the death of the Israeli captive who was killed in a shootout between Israeli commandos and Hamas at a village between Jerusalem and Ramallah on Friday [14 October] which also left more than 10 Zionist soldiers killed or wounded.

Three members of Hamas attained martyrdom in Friday's clashes, he added.

Abu Hamdan rejected the Israeli report of capturing a Hamas member during the clash as a bid to reduce domestic pressures after the unsuccessful operation.

He also condemned the recent arrest of 300 members and supporters of Hamas by Yasir 'Arafat's police force and said the "ignominious and violent" conduct of the so-called Palestinian police has led the Palestinian people to realize the real nature of the 'self-rule' administration.

The Hamas representative said it was unfortunate that Palestinians had to witness 'Arafat's efforts to get the release of the Zionist captive and his ignoring of the 6,500 Palestinians languishing in Israeli jails and the daily killings of Palestinians by Zionist soldiers.

He said some of 'Arafat's men, under orders from the Zionist regime, intend to start internal bloodshed among Palestinian groups, Hamas is trying to avoid being trapped in such a situation.

Abu Hamdan warned that the Islamic Resistance will continue its operations against Zionist security zones such as Jerusalem and the airport.

Statement Issued

JN1510194794 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Oct 94

[Statement by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, in "Palestine" on 15 October—read by announcer]

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[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. But honor belongs to God and his messenger, and to the believers; but the hypocrites know not. [Koranic verse]

It is a jihad, ending in either victory or martyrdom. This is a comprehensive statement on the heroic capture of a Zionist soldier:

Just as the beginning was heroic and wonderful in terms of the operation carried out by our heroes in which they captured the Zionist soldier Wachsman, the end was heroic and wonderful, contrary to what was desired and planned by the Zionist war general Rabin. This operation was also different from other operations that encouraged the general to repeat the same policy. However, he will be obliged to change this policy under the blows of our heroes.

Salah Jadallah, Taysir al-Natshah, and 'Abd-al-Karim Badr, our heroes from the al-Qassam Battalions, wrote the final chapter with their blood, which has tarnished the faces of Rabin and all capitulationists. On this heroic operation and its details, and in order to account for the details, we state the following:

First: The development of events:

1. The al-Qassam Battalions gave the Rabin government an ultimatum to respond to their demands to release the heroic detainees, led by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. This ultimatum ended at 2100 [1900 GMT] on Friday, 14 October 1994.

2. At the outset, the terrorist Rabin and his arrogant government ignored the demands of our mujahidin. Rabin tried to gain time by launching campaigns to comb all of the occupied Palestinian territories in search of the captured soldier. They also put pressure on 'Arafat's authority, held it responsible, and blackmailed it as a result of this incident.

3. 'Arafat's authority launched its fiercest campaign and played its worst role since coming to Gaza. It arrested more than 450 Hamas members and symbols in the Gaza Strip, and launched night search campaigns, similar to those carried out by the Zionist enemy's forces, in search for the captured soldier, but to no avail.

4. The Rabin government mobilized all its forces and its Army in search of the captured soldier in the Palestinian [West] Bank and the territories occupied in 1948. They, however, failed to reach our mujahidins' place.

5. Various personalities and circles began to contact the Hamas Movement in order to reach a compromise on the captured soldier's case and secure his release.

6. A representative from the al-Qassam Battalions contacted the International Committee of the Red Cross headquarters in Beirut, requesting that they intervene and negotiate with the enemy's authorities on the mujahidins' demands and on securing the release of the captured soldier. The Red Cross conveyed this message to the Rabin government. The enemy's television announced these contacts.

7. Various circles and personalities, including Shaykh Ra'id Salah and Talab al-Sani', were informed that Rabin agreed to respond to some of the al-Qassam Battalions' conditions on releasing Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and the female Palestinian prisoners, provided that the al-Qassam Battalions agree to extend the ultimatum for 24 hours.

8. Hamas agreed to extend the ultimatum for 24 hours in response to appeals by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and Shaykh Ra'id Salah and in light of Rabin's readiness to release Shaykh Yasin and the female Palestinian prisoners and negotiate on other demands in return for releasing the captured soldier.

9. In its statements, the battalions announced that they would extend the ultimatum. The enemy's television carried an interview with Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar in which he asserted that the battalions agreed to extend the ultimatum. The enemy's television also reported Shaykh Ra'id Salah's endeavors and his announcement that the battalions agreed to extend the ultimatum. The battalions announced this extension through loud speakers in the streets of the Gaza Strip.

10. After all this, the Rabin forces carried out a treacherous operation by storming the hideout housing our mujahidin and the captured soldier after it was discovered. Our heroic mujahidin clashed with the Zionist enemy's forces in a heroic battle in which the enemy's forces used rockets, explosives, and massive firepower.

Our mujahidin managed to teach Rabin and his arrogant government a lesson in courage and legendary steadfastness. Our mujahidin killed an officer and injured more than 10 soldiers, and the captive soldier was killed. Observers believe that the losses are actually much more than this.

Three of our heroic mujahidin were martyred. They are heroic martyrs Salah Jadallah, Taysir al-Natshah, and 'Abd-al-Karim Badr.

11. Hamas accuses 'Arafat's authority of conveying information to the occupation authorities that they got from some detainees, and this helped in finding the mujahidin's place. This was what Rabin has personally pointed out.

Second: The U.S. position:

The U.S. position on this issue proved that it is fully and shamefully following the Zionist administration. It reached the point of mobilizing the White House and its President, his full staff, and his secretary of state for the sake of the life of a Zionist soldier while it does not even do less than this for the lives of U.S. soldiers, and certainly not for one soldier. This means that the U.S. decision makers have become hostage to the Jewish

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lobby. This should strongly be raised by the American people, who should feel the shame while seeing the leadership of their superpower country mobilized for one soldier of an occupation army that is engaged in a battle with the people of the country it is occupying.

The U.S. Administration's description of Hamas as terrorist is a blatant terrorism condemned by all honorable peoples in this world. It is shameful for any country with self-respect to follow this kind of political heresy. The pressure the U.S. Administration has practiced and is practicing with some Arab countries in order to restrict Hamas activities is another kind of U.S. subservience to the Zionist decision. We urge these countries not to bow to the U.S. and Zionist pressure because Hamas is a patriotic Islamic mujahid movement that deserves support and appreciation by all regimes as it rightly deserved this from the Arab and Islamic peoples.

Third: Arafat's authority's position:

The leadership of the self-rule authority daily proves that is changing into a new border strip for the Zionist occupation and that it did not get anything important, or even the most trivial things, out of the Oslo and Cairo agreements. This time, instead of using this heroic operation as a means to launch a diplomatic campaign for the prisoners cause, the authority's leadership launched a mad arrest campaign against hundreds of heroic mujahidin, the sons of our people and supporters of our movement.

While we condemn this cowardly campaign, we emphasize that all the authority's agreements cannot negate the right of our people, movement, and mujahidin to resist the occupation by all means as long as this occupation continues in our land and shrines.

We also warn this authority against continuing this policy that will have destructive results for our people and their national unity.

Fourth: The position on the prisoners cause:

If 'Arafat's authority forgot the cause of the heroic prisoners in the Zionist occupation's prisons—even those whose release was called for in the humiliating agreements in Oslo and Cairo—Hamas will never forget its prisoners, or the rest of heroic prisoners, the sons of our people, who are suffering in captivity. Hamas pledges to them that it will continue its jihad for their release by all means and to keep their cause alive on all levels.

Fifth: The alleged humanitarian positions:

Hamas, and all honorable peoples in this world, received with much dismay the false humanitarian feelings exhibited by some quarters concerning the life of the captive soldier—these feelings that we do not know and we do not hear about except when the subject concerns the Zionist killers. We did not hear most of these voices when the Zionist occupation authorities kidnapped mujahid Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd or mujahid Shaykh Mustafa al-Dirani. We do not hear them concerned about the continued detention of mujahid Shaykh Ahmad Yasin in spite of the list of diseases from which he suffers and which are known to all.

Hamas is waging a legitimate war against the occupiers of its lands and the displacers of its people. It has the right to use all means to attack this brutal occupation and free its heroic detainees and prisoners. Likewise, it has the right to reply in kind to the countless Zionist crimes, chief among which is the cold-blooded murder of fugitives after apprehending them. O deceitful advocates of human rights: Why have you failed to demonstrate humanitarian sentiments toward our people's victims?

While announcing to the nation the good news of the martyrdom of its righteous sons, Hamas pledges to the nation and to these martyrs that it will continue to proceed along the line of jihad and resistance until God ordains certain victory for us. So lose no heart, nor fall into despair: For ye must gain mastery if ye are true in faith. [Koranic verse] God is great, and victory is the lot of the mujahidin.

[Dated] Saturday, 10 Jumada al-Ula 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 15 October 1994

[Signed] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Palestine

'Abd-Rabbuh on Palestinian Authority Meeting

JN1510203494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Oct 94

[Report by correspondent from Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Palestinian National Authority was held under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza today. During this weekly session, the ministers discussed the latest political developments.

Following the meeting, Culture and Information Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the ministers emerged from the meeting with two important and essential issues; namely, that the policy of mass punishment to which Israel resorts after any incident is a policy that greatly harms the peace process. The second is that the National Authority considers the policy of stopping the negotiations and of using it as an element of blackmail in conflict with the agreements signed between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

Minister 'Abd-Rabbuh stressed the need to abandon such methods in relations between the two sides in order to implement the interim phase agreement, especially since the negotiations serve both of the two sides' interests. He said that the Rabin government has no right to resort to the policy of closing the Palestinian areas or of stopping the negotiations as a tool of blackmail.

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Answering journalists' questions, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: We do not agree on any action that undermines Palestinian security. He emphasized that the National Authority has adopted several measures and that it will discuss additional measures within the next days for the sake of safeguarding Palestinian national security.

In this regard, the minister said that the Rabin government's measures and stands pose a threat to Palestinian security. He stressed that Palestinian security is a national Palestinian responsibility, noting that the authority's measures to guarantee security are based on the law, on national interests, and internal conditions.

'Abd-Rabbuh said the authority reiterates its regret for the recent incidents and for those who fell victim in them.

Quray' on Hamas Operation, Economic Issues, Jordan

JN1610145094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1050 GMT 16 Oct 94

[Interview with Ahmad Quray', official in charge of the economic portfolio in the Palestinian Authority, by economic correspondent Rajih Qaddur, from the "With the Midday Events" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Qaddur] Good evening, Mr. Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala' [Quray' nom de guerre].

[Quray'] You are welcome.

[Qaddur] Mr. Abu-'Ala', before we discuss economic issues, which are no less important, how do you see the current situation in light of the recent developments, which will inevitably affect future developments on the Israeli-Palestinian level?

[Quray'] First of all, there is no doubt that this Israeli policy of collective punishment is absolutely unacceptable. The Gaza Strip now has its own identity, character, and national authority. When the Israeli Government discusses an issue with the Palestinian National Authority, it should not seal off the Gaza Strip or have the occupation troops impose the past regulations. This policy should be reversed because it is in full contradiction with the principles of the peace process. Moreover, this operation [the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier] was not approved, adopted, or supported by us. On the contrary, shedding blood at this stage contradicts the peace process and does not give this process the chance it deserves in order to test its ability to survive and achieve its goals. Everybody should realize that we are facing a real confrontation and a real challenge to whether there will or will not be peace. This issue should be given a chance. The current Israeli policies and reactions do not reassure me that Israel is keen on giving the peace process a chance to face up to challenges.

[Qaddur] Abu-'Ala', but in light of the current situation, how do you view the relationship between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]?

[Quray'] Hamas is part of the Palestinian people, it is not from Puerto Rico or Latin America. They are Palestinians who have a viewpoint with which we do not agree. But we should hold dialogue with them through various channels. The second point is that security is a sacred issue for us, for Hamas, for the Israelis, for our people, and for everybody. Security is a sacred issue. Respecting the agreements reached is also sacred. Any violation of this should be confronted. All relations should be based on this fact. I am for a constructive and objective dialogue that is based on agreed principles, criteria, and concepts. This process was not adopted by one person; it was adopted according to a Palestinian policy that should be respected and given a chance to succeed.

[Qaddur] Abu-'Ala', let us go back to economic issues. It is reported that the Palestinian Monetary Authority will start work shortly in order to replace the Israeli bodies that were in charge of the affairs of banks operating in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. When is this going to take place, and are you ready to start this process?

[Quray'] Undoubtedly, we agreed on this with the occupation authorities in the Paris agreement. The formation of the Palestinian Monetary Authority was delayed. It should have been formed shortly after April or May this year following the signing of the Cairo agreement, the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Right after that we were authorized to form the monetary authority, but for many considerations this was delayed until now. We, the Palestinian Authority, have made a decision in this regard. Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was asked at a meeting by the Palestinian authority to appoint a chief for this corporation. There are some candidates and Abu-'Ammar is now weighing the options to select the proper person for this difficult and sensitive post. The monetary authority is one of the most important authorities that will be in charge of controlling and supervising all banks and establishing clearing houses and bank reserves and performing other duties usually carried out by central banks.

[Qaddur] Ahmad Quray', a final question, now you are on your way to Jordan to take part in an economic conference that will be held under Danish auspices. You were in Jordan last week. What is the importance of this conference and how far have Palestinian-Jordanian economic relations progressed?

[Quray'] First of all, Denmark called for this conference between Danish, Palestinian, and Jordanian businessmen. Amman was selected as the venue of this conference. This is good step for interaction among the Danish European expertise, the Jordanian expertise, and the nascent Palestinian experience. This will help draw common visions to exchange opinions about the possibilities of development and investment in the West Bank

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and Gaza Strip. Holding this conference in Amman is an indication of the importance we attach to Jordanian-Palestinian relations—relations unmatched by any relations with any other country. This relationship is distinguished, brotherly, and very close. It is also characterized by continuous consultations, coordination, confidence, and clarity. If these elements continued to exist, this relationship will be a model for Arab relations. Last week we discussed in detail all the aspects of this relationship, including economic relations. We reached a draft agreement on monetary issues, banks, and trade.

[Qaddur] Ahmad Quray', after this beautiful description of the Jordanian-Palestinian relations we thank you very much and good luck.

[Quray'] Thank you. You are welcome.

Abu-Zayidah: Gaza No 'Haven' for Kidnappers

TA1410235794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2315 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, head of the Israeli desk in the Palestinian Authority, stated in an interview with IDF Radio that now that the kidnapping affair is over, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has no place in the Gaza Strip.

[Begin Abu-Zayidah recording] In the last few days, we said that according to our assessment and information, the soldier was not in Gaza, and now it transpires that he was not. I think we, the Palestinian rule, did not spare any effort to help in this matter. I hope Israel's insistence was not a cover at our expense or an exploitation of our situation. I hope that the Israelis really believed the soldier was in Gaza and, on that assumption, asked us to make the effort and that they did not simply take advantage of us and play a trick at our expense and at the expense of our nerves.

In the wake of this affair, even though the soldier was not held in Gaza, I believe Hamas will reach the conclusion that if such events occur in the future—which I hope they will not—Gaza is not a haven for anybody and that Gaza is not a place to film extortion cassettes. Hamas must know that there are no two authorities in the area, that it is either Palestinian rule or Hamas. I hope they get the message. They must know that such things will not recur in the autonomy. [end recording]

Civil War Feared if PA Takes Action Against Hamas

TA1610080594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, head of the PA Israeli desk, by Karmit Gay; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gay] Yesterday evening, we saw thousands of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters demonstrating opposite the Gaza prison. What is the situation this morning? Have the Hamas supporters calmed down?

[Abu-Zayidah] I think yesterday's demonstration was blown out of proportion. It is true that many, perhaps thousands, came to demonstrate near the Gaza prison, demanding the release of the prisoners. There were no clashes or gunfire, however, and the demonstrators finally dispersed without any force being used. This means that Hamas is aware of the red line it must not cross in such cases.

[Gay] Is it really aware of it? As you know, red lines have a tendency to move backward.

[Abu-Zayidah] It seems that the Israeli public, for some reason, expects the Palestinian Authority [PA] to come down hard on Hamas. We have no problem with this, but you must understand that we are not talking about dozens or even hundreds of wanted men and accomplices. At least 25-30 percent of the Gaza Strip population support Hamas. This means that if we declare a war on Hamas, it will be a civil war, and this will not serve Israeli interests. It is a mistake to believe that this will serve Israeli interests; neither will it serve Palestinian interests. The PA does not want peace with Israel to come at the expense of peace with the Palestinian nation. It is interested in peace with Israel, but also in internal peace within the Palestinian camp.

This is how we are handling the issue: On one hand, we will not permit any element—Hamas or any other organization—to act against the peace agreement with Israel in the autonomy area under our jurisdiction; on the other hand, we do not want a civil war in the Gaza Strip.

[Gay] If you do not come down hard on Hamas, how can you find a way to coexist with it? Are you making a distinction between the military arm and the political and religious arms of Hamas?

[Abu-Zayidah] We do not believe that the Hamas organization—both the political and military arms—is simply behaving bullheadedly. Hamas people are constantly trying to undermine the Palestinian public's faith in the PA and the peace process and to present an alternative. We must tell them in our own way that there is no way back from the peace process and that the majority of our public is interested in the peace process and supports the PA. They must realize they have no choice other than to play by the rules of the democratic game. This is our intention. We do not want to annihilate Hamas but rather to turn it into part of the PA's democratic system. We want it to become part of the process. You must realize that Hamas is part of the international Muslim Brotherhood Movement. How do the Egyptian authorities deal with the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt? They are all Muslims who share the same faith. How do they deal with them in Jordan? Why does the Muslim Brotherhood not declare war on the Jordanian or Egyptian regimes?

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[Gay] In Egypt, however, the security forces are constantly trying to curb....

[Abu-Zayidah, interrupting] Not the Muslim Brotherhood, but rather an extremist movement that is made up of extremely small factions and is not part of the Muslim Brotherhood.

[Gay] Yasir 'Arafat will meet with Mahmud al-Zahhar at noon today. What will happen at this meeting?

[Abu-Zayidah] I think it is a mistake on the part of President 'Arafat to meet with al-Zahhar. Al-Zahhar has nothing to do with Hamas' military arm in particular or with Hamas in general. The man's importance is being exaggerated without any reason. He has no ties; he knows nothing. He knew nothing about the kidnapping or the kidnappers and their contacts. We have told President 'Arafat more than once that there is no point in meeting with this man. It is simply a waste of time.

[Gay] So with whom should he talk?

[Abu-Zayidah] We know with whom it is necessary to talk, and we know how to relay our messages. Al-Zahhar is not the address.

[Gay] Is 'Arafat oblivious to this message?

[Abu-Zayidah] No, he is simply exploiting all the channels to the maximum. He believes this is helpful.

Hamas Activists Rounded Up, Disturbances Reported

PA Said Seeking To Disarm Squads

TA1510125394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Overnight, Palestinian security forces rounded up dozens of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the Rafah area. Palestinian security sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the Palestinian Authority [PA] is determined to uphold national security within the boundaries of the autonomy and to disarm the military wing of Hamas. The sources noted that the PA has not banned political activity by the opposition, but will not allow armed militias to take the law into their own hands and impair the PA's authority.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 15 October adds: "Some 3,000 Islamic University students demonstrated across from the central prison. The protesters were calling for the release of the 200 Hamas activists arrested over the past few days. The Palestinian police did not interfere with the demonstration. Sources in the PA have stressed that they are committed to justice, and that only those not connected with the Hamas military wing will be released."]

Two Arabs were injured in Nabulus this morning as stonethrowers were dispersed. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers spotted a youngster holding an unidentified object in his hand, which they believed was a gun. They opened fire and seriously wounded him.

There were disturbances in other locations in the territories this morning, such as in Hebron and Ramallah. Hamas declared a general strike in all the territories.

The IDF lifted the curfew which was imposed earlier this morning on the village of al-Ram, where one of the three terrorists killed in last night's operation was living.

Hamas Threatens 'Hell' in Gaza

TA1510151394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The military wing of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has threatened the Palestinian Authority [PA], saying that it will turn the Gaza Strip into hell and burn it down over the heads of the Israelis if its activists are not released.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that a leaflet to this effect attacks the commanders of the Palestinian police, General Nasr Yusuf and Colonel Ghazi Jabali, and asserts that the arrests conducted by their men were unjustified and that Hamas will not allow its sons to be harmed.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 15 October adds that in the leaflet 'Izz-al-din al-Qassam "threatens to carry out additional operations to bring about the release of Palestinian prisoners. It announced that it will soon release a videotape of the late Israeli soldier Shahar Simani, whom they previously kidnapped. The leaflet holds the Israeli Government responsible for the death of the late Nahson Wachsman, saying that the kidnappers had earlier agreed to extend the ultimatum."]

It should be pointed out that the Palestinian security forces last night arrested over 100 residents of the Rafah area suspected of belonging to the military wing of Hamas. Among them is Husam al-'Abadi, a member of the Islamic University's student council and one of the most famous Hamas activists in the southern Gaza Strip. The number of Hamas members arrested in the wake of the kidnapping of Nahshon Wachsman has thus risen to some 350.

Gaza Prison Said Surrounded

TA1510191394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian police have been rushing large numbers of troops to the center of Gaza after some 3,000 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists surrounded the central prison and tried to break in. The demonstrators started from the house of Hasan Jadallah, one of the terrorists killed in the attempt to rescue Nahshon Wachsman. They are chanting slogans

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denigrating the Palestinian police, demanding the immediate release of Hamas members, and climbing the prison fences. Palestinian policemen are currently trying to repel the demonstrators from the vicinity of the prison.

Riots erupted this evening in the Shu'fat refugee camp north of Jerusalem. Stones were thrown at Israeli cars and tires were set on fire. Our correspondent Gay Qotev reports that a Border Police unit assisted by a helicopter is trying to restore order and has arrested several demonstrators.

Downtown Closed, Roadblocks Set Up

TA1610092694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian police this morning closed off downtown Gaza and erected many roadblocks in the city in order to prevent Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters from demonstrating opposite the main Gaza prison for the release of the Hamas detainees.

The Palestinian police also prevented several buses carrying students from Gaza's Islamic University from reaching the downtown area. The buses were delayed at the Netzarim junction. Sources in the Palestinian police told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that about 200 students got off the buses and started throwing stones at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outpost at the junction. The IDF soldiers fired several shots in the air to disperse the demonstrators and retreated to Netzarim in order to avoid a confrontation with the rioters, allowing the Palestinian police to handle them. Palestinian sources claim that the demonstrators burned an Israeli flag and a tent at the IDF outpost. The IDF is investigating this report.

IDF and Palestinian police forces are still trying to open the Netzarim junction to traffic. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that a woman from Netzarim who was in labor was evacuated to the hospital by an IDF helicopter because the junction was blocked.

Hamas Threatens Confrontation

NC1710071194 Paris AFP in English 0017 GMT 17 Oct 94

[By Najlah Sammakiyah]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Oct 17 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) is preparing for a showdown with the Palestinian Authority [PA] unless it stops "escalating measures" against the group.

"We are quiet now, we don't want to use violence," said 'Imad Faluji, a prominent Hamas member who recently obtained permission to publish a daily paper.

"We want to mobilize the public as a message to 'Arafat and we are preparing for a massive, peaceful demonstration," he told AFP, but refused to give details.

"We hope the police will not try to stop us, they know they can't," he added.

PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat has cracked down on Hamas since the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier, and at least 350 people have been arrested.

Detentions have continued since the hostage, three Hamas militants and another Israeli soldier were killed in a failed Israeli rescue attempt Friday night.

Hamas is now pressing the PLO to immediately release all prisoners, and to demand from the Israeli authorities the body of one the dead kidnappers from Gaza and of another involved in an attack in Jerusalem last week.

Hamas, in a statement received by AFP in Dubai, also accused 'Arafat of "supplying the occupation authorities" with information obtained from detainees that led Israeli troops to the hostage hideout.

Hundreds of students of a pro-Hamas university clashed briefly with Palestinian police Sunday morning when [they] were prevented from reaching Gaza City.

The students threw stones at the police who fired shots in the air.

They then stoned Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint outside a Jewish settlement, and burned tires before dispersing.

Palestinian officials have tightened security and taken measures to "ensure national security." Demonstrations were forbidden Sunday, and streets leading to the jail holding the Hamas detainees were closed off in the morning.

Other measures included reminding Hamas through the media of existing bans on the use of mosques for political speeches and the possession of unlicensed weapons.

These followed two large demonstrations Saturday by thousands of HAMAS supporters who shouted anti-'Arafat slogans and marched up to the central prison, rattling its gates and clamoring for the release of their colleagues.

Security forces brought in reinforcements, but there was no confrontation.

"This is an extraordinary situation and steps are being taken as in any extraordinary situation," 'Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said.

"I don't think we have a problem we can't deal with. We are talking about the future of Palestine, we try to get people to participate peacefully," he said, adding that hopes for a dialogue with Hamas were not yet extinguished.

But, Faluji said Hamas refuses to talk with 'Arafat's people.

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"We are not meeting with the authority so long as it is escalating measures against us. It is taking an Israeli stand against Hamas and has ruined everything that was in place before," he said.

The two sides had started a rapprochement recently, and there were negotiations for local council elections and talk of Hamas forming a political party.

"If the authority resorts to serious dialogue with us to solve all problems, we are not against that, but if not, then the authority must bear the consequences."

A solution, according to Hamas, would mean that 'Arafat would have to take a stronger attitude against Israel.

Detained Hamas Activists Freed; Fatwa Issued

TA1710120994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 17 Oct 94

[Report by Mark Weiss]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] More of the 400 Islamic fundamentalists detained since the kidnapping were released from Gaza jail this morning. According to the Palestinian authorities, only those who have a direct link with the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam military wing of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will be kept in detention.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 17 October adds: "The Palestinian police have released Ibrahim al-Yazuri, one of the leaders of the Hamas military arm, and seven activists taken in during the latest spate of arrests."]

Meanwhile, the prisoners are continuing their hunger strike, with reports that 30 of the detainees are ill.

Hamas published a fatwa—an Islamic religious ruling—today, which forbids activists from passing on information to the Palestinian authorities, because this will be forwarded in turn, they said, to the Israeli General Security Service. The movement continues to accuse the PLO of working to appease Israel and maintains that none of those arrested are connected with the kidnapping or members of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam military wing.

Police in Gaza announced this morning that they will soon start confiscating unlicensed weapons. A similar operation was announced by Jericho police, meeting one of the main Israeli demands raised repeatedly at talks with the PLO since the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Residents have a week or so to register weapons in their possession. After this date, people carrying guns without a permit will be punished.

With the lifting of the curfew this morning, 17,000 workers from Gaza left for jobs inside Israel.

Gaza General Said Arrested for Firing at Protesters

TA1710054594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has ordered the arrest of General Abu-Hamis Siksik, the senior police commander in the Gaza Strip. A senior source in the Palestinian Authority told Qol Yisra'el that Siksik was arrested after he opened fire at Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] protesters in Gaza on Saturday [15 October] night. Hundreds of Hamas supporters had surrounded the Gaza jail and tried to break in. [passage omitted]

Hamas activists taken into custody in the last wave of arrests by Palestinian security forces have begun a hunger strike. Hamas leaders, meanwhile, say they will not meet with PLO leader 'Arafat until he releases the detainees.

'Urayqat: Israel Has 'No Right' To Suspend Talks

JN1610191394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Oct 94

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, "minister of local government," by correspondent Kamal 'Alawinah at the Local Government Ministry headquarters; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Alawinah] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], is there anything new on the legislative elections?

['Urayqat] In fact, Israel has suspended negotiations on the legislative elections since Tuesday. I believe that Israel has no right and no justification to stop these negotiations, especially since the negotiations are concerned with reaching a transitional agreement in its final shape, including the redeployment of Israeli forces, the deployment of the Palestinian forces, elections, a review of laws, and the transfer of powers. I believe that this was a pretext adopted by Israel to withdraw from the negotiations, especially since several Israeli officials have announced that they are not prepared for the redeployment from the populated areas in the rest of the West Bank. I think Israel has no right to make such unilateral decisions because restricting the agreement to Gaza and Jericho will, in fact, mean destroying the agreement, and subsequently the peace process.

['Alawinah] Dani Rothschild, head of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations in Cairo, accused you of being an academic at the negotiations. What is your comment on this?

['Urayqat] I don't think that this is a charge. I am an academic. I think that General Rothschild was putting on his military uniform. The difference between one who wears a military uniform and an academic is that an academic uses the force of logic, whereas Rothschild

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always tries to use the logic of force. This is the difference. The negotiations are not dictation. The negotiations mean negotiations, mean exchanging views, and exchanging negotiating positions in writing. Rothschild and others should be aware that the Declaration of Principles [DOP] is the negotiations' terms of reference, especially concerning elections. He should also be aware that elections represent an internal Palestinian issue and that the concerns expressed in the DOP will be taken into consideration. Neither Rothschild nor anyone else has the right to come to the negotiations with the mentality of one who wants to dictate to the other party. This will not be negotiations. As I said, Rothschild should try to deal with the force of logic and not with the logic of force, which Israel has been using for many long years.

['Alawinah] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the PNA, thank you very much.

Al-Husayni Interviewed on Terror, Jerusalem

TA1410143294 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 14 Oct 94 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio in the Palestinian Authority, by Nadav Ha'etzni at Orient House in Jerusalem on 11 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ha'etzni] In view of the recent wave of terror, there is an impression that 'Arafat's government is not doing its part according to the agreement. It issues condemnations but does nothing against terror.

[Al-Husayni] The important question is whether the Palestinian government is doing everything it can, and it is. It should be remembered that if we are expected to provide full security, we should be given full control. We cannot be held responsible for terror acts outside Gaza and Jericho. One of the people who carried out the attack in Jerusalem [on 9 October] came from Egypt on an Israeli visa. We had nothing to do with him. In any event, who says that the perpetrators were in Gaza all the time and did not stay in areas under Israeli control? And besides, even the CIA and the Shin Bet cannot prevent every attack, so why should we be held responsible for this one?

[Ha'etzni] But this is not the full picture. You do almost nothing even against perpetrators of terror acts in Gaza. The arrests you carry out are feigned, with the aim of fooling the Israeli public. The detainees are taken in for questioning, have a cup of coffee, and go home. There are even reports that you and the terrorist leaders have an agreement by which you divide the work. In meetings between 'Arafat and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders, he gave them the go-ahead for terror acts, asking them not to carry them out within the boundaries of the autonomy.

[Al-Husayni] If we examine the number of Israeli and Palestinian casualties, we will find that it has significantly dropped in the areas under our control over the past five months. We work better than the Israelis. It does not matter how many people are detained or held in custody. What matters is the number of casualties.

[Ha'etzni] The facts, however, show that the number of victims last year—the year of Oslo—was double that of the previous year.

[Al-Husayni] What matters is what happens in the areas under our control in Gaza and Jericho. It is not true that there is an agreement on work distribution between us and Hamas. They declared that they will not fire at the Palestinian police, and they are keeping their word. It may seem as if we are not doing enough, but often the onlooker does not have the full picture. After the murder in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque (the Cave of the Patriarchs), we saw wanted Kakh members openly interviewed on television. This could also lead to the impression that Israel is not doing enough to arrest them.

[Ha'etzni] How can you compare the two? They were not directly involved in the murder, and they were arrested eventually. Just the opposite is true: Rabin is being accused of carrying out arbitrary arrests and employing bolshevik methods.

[Al-Husayni] We have also been accused of violating human rights, and Amnesty International wants to scrutinize the activities of our administration. What I am trying to say is: Do not tell us how to act. It is the end result that counts. I will not tell Israel whom to arrest, and you will not tell me.

[Ha'etzni] You maintain that everything is being done to combat terror, but your administration is employing perpetrators of terror against us. For example, the Abu-Sita brothers who murdered Uri Megidish were drafted by the Palestinian security service.

[Al-Husayni] Regarding the Abu-Sita brothers, I would like to remind you that the man who killed 23 Palestinians in Kafr Qasim was released after only seven months and had contacts with the Shin Bet. These are secret service matters about which we do not have the full details. Besides, old cases should be closed. Everything that preceded the agreement should be forgotten.

[Ha'etzni] There have been countless examples over the past several months of you giving refuge to terrorists, of Gaza and Jericho becoming a refuge for fugitives. For example, several members of a murderous Fatah squad that operated in the Tulkarm area fled to Jericho and are enjoying the auspices of Jibril al-Rujub.

[Al-Husayni] Israel decided to release them and say no more about it. If Israel has any problems, it should present us with the facts and demand that we act on them. If we refuse to act, Israel may file a complaint regarding our conduct. Besides, there are issues on which

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Israel is not keeping its part in the agreement. For example, collaborators who murdered Palestinians are not being punished.

[Ha'etzni] But you agreed to this when you signed the agreement.

[Al-Husayni] True, we signed the agreement, but this is an example of how Israel is being selective in implementing the law. This is not a situation where one is a devil and the other an angel. Both sides have things to improve.

[Ha'etzni] What about Jerusalem? There are increasingly growing signs that you are trying to establish facts on the ground which brazenly violate the agreements—for example, abducting Samih Samarah in Jerusalem and taking him to Jericho.

[Al-Husayni] You are speaking of an operation by the Palestinian security service, and I do not have the details of this. Do not forget that this is the way security services operate. Does the Shin Bet or the Mosad not operate in Paris or Argentina? I am not saying that this is right, but this is the way secret services operate.

[Ha'etzni] This is not an isolated incident, however. This is the tip of the iceberg of extensive activity. All the Fatah echelons conduct ongoing government activities in Jerusalem, under Israeli sovereignty. For example, vice squads beat up youths who whistle at girls on Salah al-Din Street.

[Al-Husayni] The problem is that the Israel Police does not properly protect the Palestinian residents of the city. It cares only about security. For example, policemen who were chasing a 10- year-old boy down the Old City alleyways after he threw a rock came across drug dealers in the midst of a deal. The policemen did not care about this. All they were interested in was capturing the little boy who threw the rock. This makes the community seek an alternative authority to protect it. If the police do not show us that they take care of us as well, that they take action against thieves and drug dealers, someone—not me—will reach the conclusion that an alternative police force is needed.

[Ha'etzni] Your stronghold, Orient House, engages in activities prohibited by the agreement. You function as a sort of Palestinian foreign minister and as part of the Palestinian Authority.

[Al-Husayni] We are continuing the activity that took place here before the Oslo agreements and which is not prohibited by the accords. We do not take part in running the autonomy; we deal with future negotiations. I am still the head of the delegation to the multinational talks. Foreign ministers conferred with us here before Oslo and Cairo, and they still do so. Israel has no right to order me to close down Orient House, because the agreements do not stipulate that the status of Jerusalem has changed. Its status is still open for negotiation.

[Ha'etzni] Last week, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert accused 'Arafat of sending the murderers to the Nahalat Shiv'a pedestrian mall by calling for a jihad for Jerusalem. Even if you reject the accusation, one must admit that the issue of Jerusalem casts a shadow over the entire agreement.

[Al-Husayni] The charges regarding jihad stem from a misunderstanding. 'Arafat called for a big jihad, a positive and constructive jihad, and not for the small jihad of war. Really, this is the only way by which we can succeed on our common path. We must build the city together and establish the Palestinian institutions in it. Jerusalem should be the capital of capitals, both an Israeli and a Palestinian capital.

[Ha'etzni] You know this is not realistic. The majority in Israel and in Rabin's government are against forsaking full Israeli sovereignty over the city.

[Al-Husayni] Anyone seeking real peace will find out that there is no alternative to my suggestion. I believe Rabin's declarations on Jerusalem are mere opening negotiation stands. The Oslo agreements determine that the status of Jerusalem is open for negotiations in the permanent arrangement. If you agree to hold negotiations, that means you are willing to compromise. If I am told that the Oslo agreement is meaningless, that there are no negotiations about the status of Jerusalem, it would bring us back to square one and to the military meaning of jihad.

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Algeria

Constitutional National Rally Supports Dialogue

LD1510235494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Constitutional National Rally this afternoon held a news conference at the journalists' and artists' club in Algiers. The news conference was chaired by Mr Miziane Babouche and attended by the steering committee of the Constitutional National Rally.

During the news conference, Mr Babouche spoke of many issues, including the current political, social, and economic situations and their developments, and the Amazight issue which he considered to be legitimate but which had been exploited by some political circles.

On the issue of national dialogue, Mr Babouche said: Concerning the dialogue, matters have become complicated. When the dialogue moved in a course without exclusion, some fronts appeared which blocked our path. We support the president, whatever the difficulties, as long as he opposes the course of that dialogue. [sentence as heard]

We support and stand behind him to ensure that the dialogue continues and progresses as far as possible with the Islamic Salvation Front, God willing, by the 40th anniversary of the November revolution. If it is not possible by then, then by the end of the year, we hope there will be results from the dialogue to stop the bloodshed. First we must stop the bloodshed, and the next principle stage will be returning to elections.

Debt Rescheduling Talks Held in Paris

LD1510220894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The coordinating committee in charge of Algeria's private debts and an Algerian delegation met in Paris on 13th and 14th October to negotiate a debt rescheduling agreement. Faouzi Zouai reports:

[Zouai] The coordinating committee in charge of Algeria's private debts met an Algerian negotiating delegation in Paris on 13th and 14th October to exchange views on a rescheduling agreement.

The coordinating committee expressed its desire to reach a better arrangement in view of the financial effects this agreement would have on the Algerian economy, while taking into consideration current and future reforms and expected financial backing in the framework of new agreements with the International Monetary Fund and the Paris Club.

It should be noted that Algeria's total debts to private creditors is 4.7 billion dollars, 1.7 billion of which were allocated for financing during 1992 and 1993. Algeria's short-term and long-term foreign debts have risen to 24 billion dollars. The coordinating committee and the Algerian negotiators are expected to meet again in November.

OAU Participation in Sahara Referendum Praised

LD1410145094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Implementation of a free and just referendum in the Western Sahara, decolonization, and granting independence to colonized people were the main points of the intervention [at the United Nations] of Ramtane Lamanra, Algeria's UN representative. Abdelkader Djiridi has the details:

[Djiridi] Having pointed out that the problem of decolonization has not been solved permanently, Algeria's UN representative revealed that a mechanism for good-offices has been formed between the OAU and the United Nations to hold a free and undivided [as heard] referendum for the interest of the Saharan people, organized and monitored by the UN in collaboration with the OAU and without military or administrative obstacles, in accordance with UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali's reports dated 10 March 1994. [passage omitted]

Mr. Lamanra said the participation of the OAU in the referendum constitutes an objective and principled guarantee for the work of the identification committee and an expression of credibility and legitimacy for the referendum.

Mr. Lamanra recalled the efforts made by Algeria to help clear the political atmosphere between Morocco and the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front and to conduct a direct dialogue aimed at achieving a final and just solution proceeding from Algeria's belief in the fraternal and common destiny existing among the people of the great Maghreb countries.

Airport Workers Declare Strike

LD1510204794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The trade union council of the enterprise managing Algiers airport has said in a statement that it was informing all national and government authorities that it was launching a general strike in different sectors in Algiers airport starting on Tuesday [18 October]. The trade union council said the strike was a last resort to fulfill the enterprise's demands, the prime one being its rejection of privatization plans.

Security Forces Report 26 'Terrorists' Killed

LD1510193394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A communique released by the security services today stated that 20 terrorists were killed between Monday [10 October] and Friday by the

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security forces in central and western regions of the country, and particularly in Blida and Algiers, the capital.

Another communique by the security services said that six terrorists were killed today in Benzerga by the security forces who managed to recover 15 automatic pistols and two Kalashnikov machine guns.

The mentioned group, according to the security services, were behind a number of assassinations of citizens and members of the security forces and acts of sabotage particularly in the university campus and the paramedic institute in Dergana and the institute of dramatic arts in Bordj El-Kiffan.

The security forces, refuted reports in the national newspapers which said that a pediatrician was assassinated in Bougara in Blida province last week.

Another 'Terrorist' Arrested for Bomb Attacks

LD1410143194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services announced that another terrorist, an expert in making the conventional bombs that were used in the booby-trapped cars, was arrested on the same day with 'Abd-al-'Aziz Benhadja.

Radio Journalist Shot Dead in Algiers Suburb

NC1610094294 Paris AFP in English 0936 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Oct 17 (AFP)—An Algerian radio journalist was shot dead in a southern Algiers suburb early Sunday [16 October], a statement from the security services said.

Tayeb Bouterfis, 41, who worked for the Chaine 4 foreign-language news station, was gunned down near his home in Baraki.

Sugar Plant Director Assassinated in Ain Defla

LD1610170594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services announced today that the director general of the sugar enterprise in Khemis Miliana was assassinated today in Khemis Miliana, in Ain Defla Province. The late Mohamed Madi, 44 years old, was abducted yesterday from his home in Khemis Miliana.

Egypt

Mubarak, Christopher Hold News Conference

NC1410102294 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 0910 GMT 14 Oct 94

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher with unidentified correspondents in the Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria—live; Mubarak and Christopher speak in English with superimposed Arabic translation; broadcast in progress]

[FBIS Translated Text] ...[Mubarak] I am accustomed to meeting with the U.S. secretary of state to discuss several issues and problems, what happens here and there, and any dispute in the region that concerns us. We discussed the problem of Iraq and Kuwait, the Middle East, the recent incident that took place between the Palestinians and Israel, and other issues.

I welcome the secretary again and wish him success. I know that he will head immediately to the United States, then to Haiti tomorrow to accompany the elected president. I sympathize with the secretary in his huge effort on his travels here and there. I wonder how he can sleep when there are so many time differences from one place to another.

[Christopher] Thank you, Mr. President. It is a pleasure to be back here again to meet President Mubarak, who contributed to the peace process. I am expected to submit a report on the peace process; it has made considerable progress. Unfortunately I have found that we must deal with two major threats to the peace process: Saddam Husayn and Hamas. These two, I am afraid, intruded on our talks on the peace process.

I affirmed to the president that my view is that the wave of terrorism launched by Hamas sought to end the peace process. I affirmed that we must not allow this to happen. In my discussion with President Mubarak we were joined in the last few minutes by Chairman 'Arafat. I told him he must take every possible step to release the Israeli officer, punish the abductors, and confront the terror Hamas is trying to impose. I feel that there can be no compromise in dealing with Hamas as murderers and kidnappers.

We discussed the situation in the Gulf. I briefed him on my visit to Kuwait. I found that there is strong opposition to what Saddam Husayn is doing and support for the measures adopted by the alliance involving the United States, Britain, France, the Gulf Cooperation Council, Syria, and Egypt. We agreed that the Iraqis must not be permitted to threaten Kuwait again. We are steadfast in the notion that we should not curb the sanctions against Saddam Husayn because of his threats.

Hamas and Saddam Husayn are doing things to hinder the great transformation in the Middle East. President Mubarak was a pioneer in this historic transformation. We will not let the enemies of peace hinder this great progress.

I have always enjoyed being with President Mubarak. He has given momentum to transformation and the peace process in the Middle East. Thank you.

[Correspondent] [Indistinct question]

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[Christopher] Chairman 'Arafat said he is implementing strict measures and that many suspects have been arrested. He said that the threat is addressed to him personally and that he is dealing with it as firmly as possible. He said it before: It is a criminal act that requires punishment. I cannot judge what is actually being done but I believe he is adopting firm measures. President Mubarak certainly discussed the same subject. The issue that the three of us discussed was the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier.

[Correspondent] Mr. Christopher, how do you sum up the peace process in the region, bearing in mind that you have gone through a historic stage and taken a big step forward?

[Christopher] There is no doubt, as I said in my earlier remarks, that there is a historic transformation in the Middle East region. Chairman 'Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin's reaching the Declaration of Principles was a strong factor in pushing the peace process forward. We see a recognition now of Israel by Morocco and Tunisia. We see that some important aspects of the boycott on Israel have been lifted. We see great progress on the Israeli- Jordan track of the peace process. As I have said, there is sound progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. It is slow but sure. As I pointed out to President Mubarak this morning, many things are happening in the region today and there are sound moves forward. We will not allow the enemies of peace to end this progress.

[Correspondent] From Norwegian broadcasting. In one hour president 'Arafat and Rabin will be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. I would like to have your comments on this event.

[Mubarak] They have exerted great efforts and they deserve the prize despite the presence of problems between them, problems that will continue until peace is fully established in the region. But they deserve the peace prize.

[Christopher] I certainly agree with President Mubarak that we must step back from the tragic events of the past few days and try to forget them. We need to look at the great strides forward that Rabin and 'Arafat have taken in so many ways, such as the Madrid conference and the Declaration of Principles reached between the two sides. I cannot pass judgment on this issue because I am not a member of the election committee, but the achievements realized in creating the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians are due to the Palestinians and the Israelis themselves.

[Correspondent Abu-Layla] Mus'ad Abu-Layla from Egyptian Television's Channel One. In light of the developments in the Gulf crisis, are you optimistic or is the situation still unclear?

[Christopher] The situation is still somewhat unclear. The information we have indicates that one of the divisions Saddam Husayn dispatched so quickly to the Kuwaiti border has turned back. But among the most recent information we have is that two of the brigades or one brigade and a half [as heard] have stopped after withdrawing a short distance. We are watching the situation very closely. I will not say the threat is over. That Saddam pushed his troops toward Kuwait so quickly means that we need to look at this incident with great concern. We need to make sure that all the forces are withdrawn an ample distance from the Kuwaiti border. The international community must also find a way to prevent Saddam Husayn from throwing us into a state of crisis every time he wishes to do so. When he poses such a threat we respond very quickly, but we should not allow him to fling the world into a state of crisis by moving two brigades toward the Kuwaiti border.

[Mubarak] The point here is that the area cannot afford to have such instability and turbulence every so often. A permanent solution should be studied or discussed to avert the problems that might take place every two months or so between the Iraqis and the Kuwaitis. Some thinking should be done or a way found to achieve a permanent solution to the problem in the region.

[The translator summarizes an indistinct question] Christopher was asked about the crisis between the Palestinians and Israel.

[Christopher] God forbid, I really do not want to deal with that eventuality. I talked to Chairman 'Arafat and asked him to do what he could to avoid any mishap. I do not want to deal with this now.

[Correspondent] After shuttling between Tel Aviv and Damascus, has there been any progress on the Syrian track or has the gap in views between the Israelis and Syrians narrowed? Are there any new proposals on withdrawal from the Golan Heights?

[Christopher] I met President al-Asad twice during this trip, each time in a four-hour meeting. I also met twice with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and other Cabinet officials. I can say that both leaders are serious and are determined to solve the pending problems. They are steadily moving in the right direction but some problems remain unsolved. A great deal of work is needed and we must help things along, because they are confronting an extremely difficult process. But they are serious about reaching a peace agreement.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] Saudi Arabia?

[Christopher] I think the plan open to the U.S. Administration involves development. But I can say that we learned particular lessons from this extremely costly process. Moving equipment and the presence of tanks and other equipment enabled President Clinton to send sufficient forces quickly. I believe that this was a basic factor in the withdrawal of Saddam Husayn's forces. We must learn this lesson and ask ourselves some questions. You can ask Defense Secretary Perry. I talked to him on

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the telephone two days ago. We appreciate the value of the deployment of the equipment. We can see U.S. troops leaving their aircraft and 10 or 12 hours later the equipment being brought out and the forces prepared to protect the border. This will guarantee peace in the region and prevent tension.

[Correspondent] Regarding what was said lately that Iraq will recognize the border demarcation and that the Russians are playing the role of mediator in lifting some of the sanctions, do you believe some sanctions will be lifted in return for Iraqi withdrawal?

[Mubarak] What happened long ago in August 1990 [sentence incomplete as heard]. To believe this we need guarantees, any guarantees. I cannot tell you. Thank you all.

'Arafat, Mubarak Hold News Conference

NC1410121294 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1120 GMT 14 Oct 94

[Joint news conference by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat with unidentified correspondents in Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria—live; italicized passages are in English with simultaneous translation into Arabic]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mubarak] I welcome President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to Alexandria. I met him in the presence of the U.S. secretary of state. We discussed many topics but the major issue was that of the kidnapped Israeli soldier. But together with President Abu-'Ammar we discussed the issue of peace, Palestinian moves, and the efforts Palestine is exerting to overcome the crisis. We also discussed the negotiations and the problems that have arisen as a result of the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier. It is clear from brother President Abu-'Ammar's discussion that the place he was kidnapped and the place in which he is being held now are not known. Actually, according to what I heard [words indistinct], a huge effort continues to be exerted. I asked brother Abu-'Ammar to come here yesterday but he could not. He arrived here this morning, because of the problem of the Israeli soldier. When he finishes with me here he will be go to the airport to travel to his headquarters in Gaza. I welcome him and wish him success. I hope this problem is solved and the peace process continues.

['Arafat] I thank President Mubarak for the meeting that took place this morning. As President Mubarak said, I was supposed to come yesterday, but yesterday, like the day before yesterday, I was busy with this problem. We got involved in this issue but the incident did not take place in the Gaza Strip. It took place outside the Gaza Strip. It took place outside the West Bank. We maintain that just as we are partners in peacemaking we are partners in protecting this peace from any attempts to destroy this peace of the brave. Among these attempts, whether performed by this side or any other side, is this latest incident. We believe such incidents are operations aimed at hampering and ruining the peace process. We are exerting huge efforts. During the past three days we have searched many places in the West Bank, Jericho, and the Gaza Strip. And we were forced to arrest many people who we thought took part in these operations. But at the same time we are very concerned about the safety of this soldier. Shaykh Ahmad Yasin said in the message he addressed to the kidnappers from prison that Islam prohibits harming prisoners. If this man is considered a prisoner then it goes against Islam to harm him. These things were said by Shaykh Yasin. This is why we have been doing our utmost. For three days we have not left a single place without searching it and we continue with this.

They have tried to strike some deals with the authorities and announced that they want the release of some prisoners, a list topped by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

[Correspondent] Do you think what happened will affect the peace process?

['Arafat] *We must remember that this is not the first time such a thing has happened involving this or that party. The massacre that was committed in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron [sentence left incomplete] We insist on continuing the peace process. Before that massacres were perpetrated in the Jerusalem Mosque but we insist on continuing the peace process. We hope the other party will understand that we must give no chance to any extremist from this or that camp to destroy the peace process.*

[Correspondent] *What are the points that prevent expanding the self-rule in the occupied areas?*

['Arafat] *Only the Israelis are obstructing the talks toward this goal.*

[Correspondent] *President Mubarak, from your talks today with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and with U.S. Secretary of State Christopher, can we say that the outcome of these talks may prepare the climate for resuming the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations that began in Cairo?*

[Mubarak] The negotiations would have continued had it not been for the latest incident, which created a problem between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. But I hope the two parties will overcome this issue peacefully. The cause of peace is an issue that does not need much discussion and must not be hampered by such incidents under any circumstances. Public opinion may cause a delay in the talks for a while. But I hope these relations will not be frozen, because anyone who wants to halt the peace process could do anything and thus foil the peace process. There are people who have an interest in foiling the peace process.

[Correspondent] *Chairman 'Arafat, let us look at things in a different way...*

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[Another correspondent, interrupting] What about bringing 'Arafat and Rabin together to agree for example on a position that such acts should not affect the peace process. They can discuss any emerging problem from time to time between the two parties, can they not?

[Mubarak] I believe that President 'Arafat and the Israeli prime minister are convinced that the negotiating process must resume, because they must not be stopped by such acts that may occur every now and then to obstruct the peace process. I believe that both leaders are fully convinced that they must continue with the peace process and the negotiations so that the Palestinian Authority may present its views. Such incidents may affect public opinion in Israel and elsewhere and might affect the process. But I am convinced that the negotiating process will continue.

[Correspondent] *In half an hour it will be announced that you have won the Nobel prize. What is your comment?*

['Arafat] *It is not for me alone, but for my people as well. It is for the peace of the brave.*

[Mubarak] *I could tell you something. I know you asked that question during my news conference with Warren Christopher. Both leaders have taken a good step forward, a very important step forward in the peace process. That step started with the Declaration of Principles and then their implementation. This must have taken very courageous people.*

[Correspondent] *With the Nobel prize being announced today, what is your assessment of the peace process? Do you not think that just a little has been achieved and are you not frustrated concerning the implementation of the peace process?*

['Arafat] *We have undoubtedly achieved something. But we have not achieved all we were eager to achieve. We achieved stability and life in the freed Palestinian lands is proceeding smoothly. Although we are encountering economic problems we are pursuing the same course with good efforts. The peace process as a whole has achieved much. We are eager to continue, particularly in connection with what we were negotiating in Cairo, that is, elections. We are eager to see elections begin. This is very important for the peace process.*

[Correspondent] I am asking about the efforts you made to contain this crisis, particularly after listening to Secretary Christopher's remarks.

[Mubarak] I discussed that in Christopher's presence. This is enough.

[Correspondent] *Chairman 'Arafat, one last question: If you were to address Rabin after both of you won the Nobel Peace Prize, what would you say to him?*

['Arafat] *We will tell him that this is the road we started at the beginning. What we achieved was important and historic. It was the peace of the brave on the two sides.*

[Correspondent] *What about your hopes at this somewhat complicated stage?*

[Mubarak] *Why do we speak about the Nobel prize now when it has not been announced yet?*

[Correspondent] *I said if.*

[Mubarak] *Do you think he will get it?*

[Correspondent] *I am certain. Thank you.*

Musa: Palestinian-Israeli Talks Should Resume

NC1510163694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed the need for the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations now that it has indeed been proved that the kidnapped Israeli soldier was not in Gaza, as Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat emphasized at the time.

In a statement today, Musa added that the Palestinian National Authority has done all it could regarding the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier, yet he still was killed. Therefore, he added, negotiations must be resumed and confidence in president 'Arafat must increase and double. Musa called for giving the Palestinian Authority all the powers and assistance that could enable it to proceed with the negotiations, hold the elections, and expand the self-rule authority to include all the occupied territories.

The Israeli delegation led by Dani Rothschild, coordinator in the occupied territories, recently walked out of the talks with the Palestinians in Cairo following the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

Papers View Ramallah Raid, Peace Talks

NC1610084594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH stress the need for resuming the peace talks between Israel and Palestine as soon as possible to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the region to besiege the terrorist acts that may spoil the peace process.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says in an editorial appearing in the Sunday issue that the killing of the Israeli soldier in Ramallah yesterday calls for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the UN resolutions.

The paper notes the statements by President Husni Mubarak, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that the incident should not affect the peace process or hinder the current efforts.

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The paper says the responsibility for this incident and for other past, and perhaps future, incidents lies with Israel alone because it has so far failed to comply with the agreed on concept for peace.

AL-AHRAM says the kidnapping and then killing of the Israeli soldier in Ramallah points to the Rabin Government's crisis in dealing with developments following the establishment of the Palestinian self-rule authority. Rabin, the paper explains, decided to handle the kidnapping using the same old logic.

AL-AHRAM says such incidents reveal the extreme sensitivity of the Palestinian-Israeli peace process and the need for the two sides to eagerly continue this process and cooperate to stop the trend of violence that seeks to undermine it.

The paper says Rabin did not wait to see what Yasir 'Arafat, who condemned the incident, was going to do. Rabin decided to establish a new tradition in dealing with the acts of violence; namely, that Israel's heavy stick policy would still being pursued, perhaps more than before.

AL-AHRAM asks: Will Israel use the same logic when an Israeli settler kills a Palestinian youth or child? Where were such Israeli actions when an extremist Israeli attacked the Ibrahimi mosque? It concludes: This is what Israel must take into consideration so that the peace process can really be secured.

Mubarak Receives Italian Foreign Minister

NC1610093494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak received Italian Foreign Minister Antonion Martino and the delegation accompanying him in the Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria this morning.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who later said that the Italian minister conveyed to President Mubarak a message from the Italian president and another oral message from the Italian prime minister.

Musa added that during the talks they discussed bilateral relations, the situation in the Mediterranean, the Middle East peace process, and the situation in Europe, in addition to issues of common interest, particularly the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait.

The Italian foreign minister said after the meeting that his government attaches special importance to ties with Egypt because Egypt and Italy have always been friends and have cooperated. He added that this cooperation can be developed further in the future.

Members of Islamic Groups Referred for Trial

NC1510193794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1757 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Counselor Hisham Saraya, public attorney at the Higher State Security Prosecution Office, today referred 14 members of the Islamic groups to the Higher State Security Court in Asyut for trial. The prosecutors charged the defendants with committing acts of violence in the villages of Manshiyat Nasir, Sanabu, and Dayrut between 4 May 1991 to 10 July 1994. Fourteen Christians and Muslims were killed in these acts of violence. The defendants were led by terrorist Jamal Farghali Haridi, leader of the organization's military wing, who was arrested while disguised in the uniform of a waiter in al-Matariyah on 27 October 1992.

The prosecutors charged the defendants with joining a group established against the provisions of the law and the Constitution with a view to changing the regime by force, changing the state's Constitution, premeditated murder, and attempted murder. They were also accused of possessing firearms, explosives, and ammunition without license with a view to using them to disrupt security and public order, stir up sectarian strife, and threaten national unity and social peace. The defendants are: Jamal Farghali Haridi, Ra'fat Fayiz Muhanna, Hamid Fahmi Husayn, Shawqi Sayyid Hasan, Muhammad Haridi Hasanayn, 'Isam-al-Din Qasim Farghali, 'Abd-al-Nasir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Nasir, Muhammad Ahmad Mahmud, Mahmud Abu-al-'Ila Farghali, 'Id Muhammad 'Ali, 'Abd-al-Mun'im 'Ali 'Abd-al-Rahman, Ahmad Muhammad Haridi, 'Ammar Zaki 'Alam-al-Din, and Sharif Muhammad Surur.

Nobel Laureate Mahfuz Stabbed in Neck

NC1410184894 Paris AFP in English 1826 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 14 (AFP)—A man stabbed Nobel prize-winning novelist Najib Mahfuz in the neck here Friday [14 October], police said. The Egyptian writer was rushed to hospital where his condition was later reported to be satisfactory.

A doctor at the hospital said the 83-year-old writer had undergone surgery and his bleeding had stopped.

Mahfuz was getting out of a car outside his Cairo home when a man came up and stabbed him in the neck, Dr Hiba al-Sirjani said.

His home is only 20 meters (yards) from a police hospital and he was rushed there for surgery. Al-Sirjani said Mahfuz was "walking and fully conscious" when he arrived in hospital.

The writer was to be transferred to the intensive care ward.

Al-Sirjani said police had recovered the knife used by the assailant at the scene.

Mahfuz won the Nobel prize almost six years ago to the day. Critics consider him the master of the modern Egyptian novel.

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A police spokesman said the attack happened as Mahfuz was returning to his home in the al-'Ajuzah district of western Cairo from the offices of the Egyptian daily AL-AHRAM.

"As he was getting out of the car outside his home a white Mercedes drew up with three people inside. One of them got out and approached him," the spokesman said.

Mahfuz "thought the man was going to greet him, but the man knifed him twice in the neck before getting back in the car, which sped off."

The spokesman said passers-by "went to help the writer and immediately took him to the police hospital."

Security forces sealed off the area.

A close friend of Mahfuz, actress Bilanti 'Abd-al-Hamid, said she had repeatedly warned police that the writer, well known for his criticism of religious conservatism and support for Arab-Israeli peace, lacked protection.

No details were available on the motive of the attack.

Islamic militants have been waging a violent campaign since March 1992 aimed at toppling the secularist government of President Husni Mubarak.

The writer Faraj Fudah, another prominent critic of religious hardliners, was killed by Islamic militants in Cairo in June 1992.

Mahfuz Attackers Reportedly Killed

NC1610063994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—State Security Intelligence men tonight succeeded in killing five terrorists in 'Ayn Shams [in Cairo].

MENA has learned that the terrorists are connected with the attack against renowned international writer Najib Mahfuz yesterday evening.

State Security Intelligence forces had set up an operation room at the instructions of Interior Minister Major General Hasan al- Alfi, who gave strict orders that the culprits be captured quickly.

Security Raids Net Mahfuz's Attackers

NC1610161294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—The Interior Ministry has announced that the State Security intelligence service apprehended the perpetrators of the criminal attack on international writer Najib Mahfuz less than 24 hours after it took place.

In a statement issued today, the ministry says that the culprits made detailed confessions regarding their responsibility for the criminal attack. [passage omitted]

The statement says that the security service action teams identified the leaders of the terrorist group, their communications systems, and their hideouts. They identified terrorist Basim Muhammad Khalil Shahin, alias Mahmud, who was put in charge of the group after being sent to this country by the fugitive leaders of the Islamic Group abroad to execute a number of terrorist operations and who has been sentenced to three years in prison in the Dr. Faraj Fudah case.

The statement adds that the information collected confirmed that the group's leaders abroad put this terrorist in charge of one of the units inside the country; it included Muhammad Khadir Abu-al- Faraj al-Mihallawi, 'Abd-al-Hamid Muhammad Abu-Zayd, al-Mukanna Muhammad who carries a false ID card in the name of Muhammad Naji Muhammad Mustafa, Ahmad Husni Tulbah, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Zahir al- Sayyid 'Ali, Husayn 'Ali Bakr al-Sharnubi, and 'Amru Muhammad 'Ali 'Ali Ibrahim. [passage omitted]

The state security intelligence service raids resulted in the arrest of the top and second-ranking terrorists in the al-Matariyah area as they were meeting in front of the al-Matariyah telephone exchange center. A coffee shop at the corner of 'Ayn Shams Road and Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Raziq Road, which was being used by the third-, sixth-, and seventh-ranking terrorists as a venue for their meetings, was raided. Another terrorist, Basim Muhammad Khalil Shahin, was with them. The terrorists opened fire first on the force when it arrived and the latter was compelled to fire in order to control the situation. As a result, Basim Shahin was wounded and later succumbed to his wounds; 'Amru Ibrahim and a citizen who happened to be in the coffee shop were also injured.

The statement adds that the fourth- and fifth-ranking terrorists were arrested in the Cairo and al-Jizah governorates. All the group's hideouts were also raided and 30 terrorist elements were arrested and their weapons and ammunition seized. [passage omitted]

Police Kill al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah Militants

NC1610071594 Paris AFP in English 0009 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Asyut, Egypt, Oct 16 (AFP)—Egyptian police late Saturday killed a regional military leader of the Islamic militant group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah and one of his aides in an ambush near here, 400 kilometers (250 miles) south of Cairo, police reported.

They said 26-year-old Ahmad Sinusi, responsible for the group's activities in the Asyut region, and his colleague, Ahmad Shawqi Muhammad, were shot and killed on a street in the town of Manfalut.

Security forces found a revolver and a sub-machine gun that had been stolen from a soldier in Manfalut last March.

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Sinusi had been sought for three years and was accused of involvement in more than 20 attacks committed in the Asyut area, a stronghold of Islamic militants waging a campaign to topple the secular government of President Husni Mubarak.

Police last April killed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah's overall military chief, Tal'at Yasin Hammam, after which violence in southern Egypt tapered off before recurring in late August.

More than 450 people have died since March 1992, when militants launched their anti-government operations.

'Terrorists' Killed in Asyut Shoot-Out

NC1610120594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Asyut, 16 Oct (MENA)—The security agencies in Asyut, Upper Egypt, succeeded in killing two of the most dangerous terrorist elements in Asyut Governorate. They are Ahmad al-Sanusi Hilal, a 27-year-old man from al-Qusiyah, leader of the military wing of extremist groups; and Ahmad Shawqi Muhammad, a 21- year-old man from the village of Bani Shuqayr in Manfalut.

Reports received by the security agencies indicated that the two terrorists were seen in the area near the al-Nasr Mosque in the city of Manfalut. When the place was stormed, the terrorists opened fire, forcing the police to respond. The two terrorists were killed in the exchange.

The security forces found a "Port Sa'id" machine gun, a 9-mm revolver, live ammunition, explosives, and some [word indistinct] and false identification cards beside the terrorists' bodies. The bodies were taken to the central hospital in Manfalut for a post mortem and the prosecution was notified to launch an investigation.

Musa Stresses Egypt's Role at Casablanca Summit

NC1610084294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—A seminar on the future of economic relations in the Middle East was held at the Foreign Ministry this evening under the chairmanship of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. A large number of officials from the ministries concerned in economic affairs and the businessmen's society attended.

At the beginning of the seminar, Musa delivered a speech in which he said the Casablanca conference will discuss ways to foster regional cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa. He said the majority of international companies and a large number of politicians from the United States, Europe, and the Middle East will participate in the conference. The purpose of the conference, he said, is to make it clear that the region is moving toward a comprehensive peace, which will allow preparation for new economic cooperation.

Musa said Egypt is participating in the conference because it started the political initiative to bring peace to the Middle East and placing the region's peace into an economic, security, or any other framework cannot be done without Egypt's contribution. He said Egypt's economic role must be clear and understood.

Musa added that things are moving forward whether we like it or not and we must cooperate with these developments within an Egyptian, national, and pan-Arab framework. He noted that this cannot be achieved without Egypt. Musa said that many projects will be discussed and that Egypt's role is to push these projects into the right course.

Air Force Commander on F-16's, Apaches

NC1510195594 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 12 Oct 94 p 4

[Interview with Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Ahmad Nasr by Faruq al-Shadhili; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-Shadhili] The year 1994 is an important one for the armament of our Air Force, in which the Apache assault helicopter and the fourth batch of multipurpose F-16's were delivered. When will these advanced aircraft enter the service and when will the remaining planes be delivered? And have the modifications requested by Egyptian experts in light of their Gulf war experience been considered in the Apache deal? Also, what distinguishes the new batch of F-16's?

[Nasr] As I stated last year, the delivery of the fourth batch of F-16's started this March. The remaining aircraft under the deal will be delivered by June 1995, God willing. As for the Apache assault helicopters, delivery started on 1 May 1994 and the last aircraft under the deal were delivered this month. In view of our experience in the desert operation scenarios, the modifications we had already made on some of the older models to suit our combat requirements and the region's atmosphere, and the experience gained from the actual use of this type of aircraft during the Gulf war, some modifications have been introduced to in a modified version of the aircraft. The batch we received is the latest version. The latest deal for F-16's is for the C model, which is the latest model of this aircraft. It entered service in our Air Force at the same time it joined the U.S. Air Force.

[Al-Shadhili] Our Air Force was among the first branches of the Armed Forces to benefit from the policy of diversification of armament. We have the Eastern aircraft MiG-21, the U.S. F-16 aircraft, and the French Mirage-2000. Does the emphasis on the F-16's signal a change in this policy, and is there a plan to acquire more Mirage-2000's? Also, does our Air Force intend to phase out aircraft that date back to the October [1973] war or will newer models of them be sought?

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[Nasr] First of all, let me explain a very important point regarding the armament of any air force in the world. In each weapon in the Air Force, particularly the combat aircraft, there is a primary type or model assisted by other types or models, which play a supporting, not a secondary, role in accordance with the general armament plan. The F-16 for us represents the mainstay of the multipurpose combat aircraft, in view of its many advantages, just as it does for the U.S. Air Force and the NATO air forces. We all remember the deal, which was termed the deal of the century, to arm the NATO forces with F-16's, although most of the NATO member states are producers of combat aircraft. However, we also use other types and models of aircraft. You named some of them, but there are others, such as the Chinese F-6 and F-7, the Canadian Buffalo, the British Sea King and Commando helicopters, and others. This indicates that we continue the policy of arms diversification. As for the Mirage-2000, we indeed possess enough aircraft of this type to suit the requirements of the Air Force. This, however, does not mean that we do not look forward to obtaining more of the advanced models of this aircraft. As for the Eastern bloc aircraft, the embargo imposed on us by the former Soviet Union has led us to rely on ourselves in servicing, repairing, overhauling, and even developing the Soviet-made aircraft to adapt them to our requirements. This has upgraded their combat performance and enabled them to remain operational until now. Because of the international changes and since we do not have to obtain our weapons from a specific source, we choose what suits our circumstances. As far as Russia is concerned, the MI-8 helicopter has proved to be highly capable of carrying out specific tasks, such as landing operations. Accordingly, we have developed and modernized them in order to be in a state of high combat capability. We also study all the Russian aircraft and air weapons on display, and if the feasibility studies prove that the products are suitable for us, we will try to obtain them. [passage omitted]

Opposition Leaders Criticize Iraq, U.S.

NC1510120994 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 12 Oct 94 p 4

[Report by Majdi Hasanayn]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leaders of the Egyptian [opposition] parties have rejected the U.S. threats against Iraq, despite the latter's announcement on the withdrawal of its troops from south of al-Basrah. The U.S. Administration has claimed that these troops pose a threat to the Kuwaiti border.

Dr. Rifa't al-Said, secretary general of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] Party, said Iraq has committed several mistakes, beginning with the Invasion of Kuwait. These mistakes are a result of wrong calculations of the world's balance of forces. However, we do not accept that Iraq be subjected to unfair treatment. We also do not approve of Iraq's intimidation of its neighbors militarily. We do not accept that the blockade on Iraq should continue forever. The recent Iraqi moves will not solve the problem but will make it more complicated. We are against any Arab threat against another Arab country. We believe that border disputes can be resolved peacefully and within a pure Arab framework. Inter-Arab differences cannot be resolved through troop buildup. We have reservations—as we had before—on the U.S. role and on the summoning of the Americans to confront the Iraqi mistake. It was possible to resort to the Arabs to resolve these temporary problems. The Americans seized this opportunity—as they did before—to settle accounts with Iraq so as to continue the unfair sanctions on its people, dismantle its military force, maintain the sanctions to prevent its oil from reaching the world market, and impose full U.S. control on the oil market. We hope that the problem will be solved if Iraq resorts to reason and if the other parties do not allow the U.S. presence to rebel. We hope that the Arab League will play a positive role that will justify its existence to solve such problems. We are against the continuation of the unjust blockade of the Iraqi people. We affirm that the Americans are using this blockade to achieve their interests and to impose their will on the international community, forgetting that international law and justice do not recognize double standards.

Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri referred to the feverish response by the United States to the Iraqi Army movements, stressing that it is an attempt to impose U.S. hegemony and not a call to establish a world order in which people will feel secure. He denounced U.S. extremism and exaggeration.

Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad said Saddam Husayn's behavior is astonishing and is leading to an outbreak of a battle between the United States and its allies against Iraq. Peaceful methods must be used to solve all these problems and lift the siege on Iraq in return for Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty.

Ma'mun al-Hudaybi [deputy general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood] linked the Iraqi Army movements on the Kuwaiti border to U.S. intervention in the region and striking at Iraqi and Arab interests. He indicated that these Iraqi moves have led to the U.S. intervention. He called for lifting the siege on Iraq.

Ambassador Muhammad Wafa' Hijazi, member of the political bureau of the Nasirite Party, said the incident is being exploited to impose U.S. hegemony and impose normalization with Israel, especially as Iraq is not in a position to invade Kuwait. The U.S. stance is basically directed against the Arab nation to dismember it and impose the Middle East Market.

Libya

Al-Muntasir on Lockerbie, Jallud, 'Stray Dogs'

MM1410143494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Oct 94 p4

[Interview with 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for the People's

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Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation, by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] [Dirgham] All the attempts made by Libya, through mediators, to resolve the Lockerbie crisis and persuade the U.S. Administration to lift the embargo have failed. The sanctions continue and the price is high. Is there a possibility of a new opening for a solution to that problem?

[Al-Muntasir] An opening in the broad sense of the word, no; but at the global level outside the United States there is room for listening to the Libyan initiatives such as the recent initiative made through the Arab League for the trial [of the Lockerbie suspects] in The Hague according to Scottish law and by a Scottish court. However, as we said before, we have no objection to the trial being held anywhere in the world outside the United States and the United Kingdom.

[Dirgham] Why do you not get rid of the Lockerbie crisis and find a solution that would secure a lifting of the blockade and sanctions against Libya?

[Al-Muntasir] For purely legal reasons. If the two suspects do not wish to appear before a court in Scotland and the United States, we cannot force them to do so because Libyan law prohibits such extradition. We said last year that we had no objection to a trial anywhere acceptable to them. The legal position at present is that they agreed to stand trial before a Scottish court and under Scottish law but outside Scotland. They would not object to a trial anywhere in the world.

[Dirgham] Including the United States?

[Al-Muntasir] No, they reject the United States and Scotland, the main reason being the hostile media and political atmosphere. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] The British and American terms are clear and so is the British and American influence at the Security Council. Through mediators, you have resorted to various ways of resolving the crisis but that has so far failed and the blockade and sanctions continue. Why do you not change your ways, considering that they have cost you a great deal of effort and money?

[Al-Muntasir] There is still the step we discussed with the Arab League's seven-member committee. That move refutes the claim that Libya is not committing itself to handing over the suspects for trial by a court outside the Jamahiriyah. We have agreed to authorize the Arab League and to refer the suspects to it and let it, after discussions and consultations with the Security Council and the UN secretary general, decide the venue of the trial provided it is not the United States or the United Kingdom.

[Dirgham] That is the impossible condition.

[Al-Muntasir] I would not say impossible. Perhaps when they are sure that we are serious about finding a solution they would accept that, unless they have other intentions for other purposes.

[Dirgham] Libya is required to find a way because the crisis will not strangle the British or American people.

[Al-Muntasir] Introducing other sanctions would affect other peoples. A U.S. call for increased sanctions and for an embargo on the export of oil would, of course, be detrimental to the Libyans but it would also be detrimental to Tunisia, Egypt, Chad, Niger, and the surrounding countries because their nationals work in Libya. If there is an oil embargo, we would have no revenues or job opportunities for the nationals of these countries, who have about 1 million people working in Libya. We would have to ask them to return (to their countries) or stay in Libya without work. Furthermore, the allies of the United States and Britain have interests in Libya. They purchase Libyan oil and have investments. [passage omitted] Furthermore—and this is a matter I find strange—our economic ties with Britain have not been severed and the volume of our trade with it so far is greater than our trade with any other European country if we exclude the oil sector. The trade volume with Britain is about 500 million pounds sterling. The largest European community in the Jamahiriyah is the British community. If they are blind and cannot even see their own interests, they should ask their nationals if what they are doing serves British interests.

[Dirgham] In your General Assembly speech you said that you gave the British some information about the IRA and you hinted that that led to dialogue and negotiations. Do you feel that you were tricked? Were you promised something and then the promises were not kept?

[Al-Muntasir] No, we were not tricked. The Security Council resolution called on us to cooperate with the British in connection with their questions about those they claimed were terrorists, but as I told the Security Council members I have met with, including the British chairman of the council, this point has been resolved now that the direct negotiations with the Irish have started. The information they asked for was given and the meetings are continuing and we hope a meeting will be held with the British this month to finish all the questions they raised.

[Dirgham] When, where, and at what level?

[Al-Muntasir] This month in Cairo at ambassadors level.

[Dirgham] Have you been seeking a political dialogue with Britain and the United States and not getting a response?

[Al-Muntasir] We are ready for dialogue with everyone but, regrettably, with the United States in particular there is a dialogue of the deaf. I believe the matter has become childish. With the ambassador's permission (addressing Ambassador Muhammad al-Zawi), if (U.S. Ambassador) Madeleine Albright passed him now and he said good morning to her, she would not reply. It has

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become childish like schooldays, "I am speaking to you or I am not speaking to you."

[Dirgham] Before we move to other topics and lest I misunderstand you, is there a new proposal for the settlement of the Lockerbie crisis? You have mentioned the possibility of handing the suspects over to the Arab League. Has the Arab League agreed? And what is the new proposal?

[Al-Muntasir] The Arab League of course agrees but it cannot make a firm decision until the secretary general contacts the three states and the Security Council. The Arab League accepts the principle.

[Dirgham] But what is the new factor that would end the deadlock in this crisis?

[Al-Muntasir] What is new is that the suspects would be taken out of Libyan legal jurisdiction.

[Dirgham] To?

[Al-Muntasir] To the Arab League so that if they agree on something, it would be carried out and it would not be subject to Libyan consideration as the charge was in the past. The important point I would like to make here is that there may be other alternatives but we do not wish to raise them because they would claim that the Libyans keep changing. We are willing to discuss other alternatives if they have any, provided the suspects do not go to Scotland or the United States against their will.

[Dirgham] What is the significance of the recent changes in Libya which included a number of security commands, headed by Yusuf al-Dibri who was replaced by Musa al-Kusa?

[Al-Muntasir] There is no significance. That is a natural matter. The Libyans are always changing the commands. The General People's Committee, which you call the cabinet, considers them annually. There is no significance to this change.

[Dirgham] What do you expect from the substitution of Musa al-Kusa for Yusuf al-Dibri? It has been claimed that he has close links with Britain and studied in the United States.

[Al-Muntasir] He studied in the United States and was secretary of the people's bureau in London but has no links beyond that.

[Dirgham] He seems to be more acceptable to the West than others.

[Al-Muntasir] I do not believe so. On the contrary, if we look at it from that narrow angle, al-Dibri would perhaps be more acceptable to the West than Kusa.

[Dirgham] Is it true that administrative changes were one of 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud's conditions for resuming his duties?

[Al-Muntasir] That has nothing to do with it whatsoever.

[Dirgham] What is the truth behind Jallud's disappearance for a while and then his reappearance?

[AL-Muntasir] Disappearance, where? He has been there all the time. That is a figment of some people's imagination. As far as we are concerned, Jallud did not disappear and did not have a job even in the past. We believe that what was in the past known as the "Revolution Command Council" no longer legally exists in the Jamahiriyah. As individuals, they [members] advocate revolution and revolutionary action but they have no administrative jobs, work, or responsibilities at all in the Jamahiriyah, be it 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud or anyone else. The only member who, one could say, has a kind of a job is Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis, the commander in chief of the armed forces or the armed people, and also Mustafa al-Kharrubi, the inspector general in the armed forces. The rest have no job. 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, 'Aziz al-Qurawi, and all the members...they have been in Libya since 1977.

[Dirgham] What are these people doing? What is 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud doing?

[Al-Muntasir] He is a responsible revolutionary man in the revolutionary committees advocating revolution. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Do you believe that 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud is playing the part he is supposed to play as a safety valve?

[Al-Muntasir] Not 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud the individual, but the group which carried out the revolution, and that is done through the revolutionary committees and the basic people's congresses.

[Dirgham] I see you downplaying the importance of 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud's disappearance, reappearance, terms, and duties.

[Al-Muntasir] As far as we are concerned, that has nothing to do with it. 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud is a revolutionary man who contributed to the revolution and he will always have a role.

[Dirgham] When will official Libya stop describing the members of the opposition as "stray dogs?"

[Al-Muntasir] So long as they are there, they will be called stray dogs because the opposition in the prevailing sense is an escape from reality. They have escaped. Many of them were state employees who contributed to the work at the beginning of the revolution but when the revolution's movement touched their personal interests they became opposition. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] When will work in accordance with the constitution be revived?

[Al-Muntasir] First of all, we are proceeding with the Libyan constitution in accordance with the congress resolutions. It has not been drafted in any particular form yet. The full draft will be submitted to the congress' coming sessions. [passage omitted]

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[Dirgham] Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has told the wife of [Mansur] al-Kikhya [missing Libyan oppositionist] that "Mansur is alive, God willing." Why has he not surfaced yet?

[Al-Muntasir] As you know, Mansur and I are related. His brother is married to an al-Muntasir girl. He, of course, is not in Libya. We trust the Egyptian police and security authorities. They are investigating the matter. Our information is that he is not in Libya. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Do you have any information that he is still alive?

[Al-Muntasir] We have no information to the contrary.

U.S. Seen Seeking To Humiliate Arab Nation

LD1410141994 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1140 GMT 14 Oct 94

[From the "Daily Report"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The American government is mobilizing all its political, military, and information capabilities to impose a policy of hegemony on the Arab nation to humiliate it day after day, defying thus all international norms and conventions and the inviolability and sovereignty of states over their territories.

Within this context an official from the U.S. War [as heard] Department has announced that his government intends to declare a demilitarized zone in the south of Iraq and to prohibit Iraqi forces from entering it. The official stressed that the American government will not wait for United Nations' approval if it decides to do that.

Although an official in the American War Department announced the day before yesterday that the majority of Iraqi forces in the south of Iraq have been withdrawn, the massive U.S. military buildup is still going on in the Arabian Gulf region. [passage omitted]

Thus the perils endangering the Arab region become certain and the American aggressive intentions toward it become clear through the tightening of its control on it, exhausting and exploiting its oil resources, turning it into military bases, and a stage to review American muscles on and to threaten, terrorize, and provoke the peoples of the region and make them live in a state of anxiety and instability.

Peace Prize Said 'Reward' To U.S. Promoters

LD1510092594 Tripoli JANA in English 0826 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, al Timour [Oct] 15, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The so called Nobel Peace Prize was awarded this year jointly to Yasir 'Arafat and terrorists Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres. This prize has become a much publicised reward for those who promote, in the fields of literature and politics, the American and western viewpoint without any due regard to objective considerations in this respect.

Paper Examines Algerian Situation, Islam

LD1510105994 Tripoli JANA in English 0808 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al Timour [Oct] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—AL-JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper yesterday asserted that the regrettable events taking place in Algeria proved the credibility of the warning issued by the universal great al-Fatih revolution and its historical leadership that the colonialist forces will not allow Algeria or any other Arab country to be a stable and strong country.

In a commentary by its Arab affairs editor entitled "Our Hearts with Sisterly Algeria", the paper expressed concern at the regrettable events which are claiming innocent victims at the hands of elements hiding behind slogans and banners of Islam which is innocent of them for Islam is a religion of love amongst citizens, cooperation amongst people and peace and prosperity for all mankind.

The paper added that the use of car bombs at universities and residential areas in Algiers and the killing of many innocent victims represented horrific crimes which clearly realizd the real forces working in favour of American imperialism im a bid to undermine national unity inside Algeria and paralyse its effective forces, destroy the legitimate aspirations of the masses for free and dignified life and undermining the security and stability of an Arab country which embodies the hope and aspirations of the Arab nation.

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper poinied out "the revolutionary leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi warned that the instrument and means of colonialism to implement its plan is to plot [against] the national unity of each Arab country which goes simultaneously with a destructive colonialist plan for abortimg any Arab step towards any total unity.

The paper concluded by expressing the hope that the Arab masses in Algeria will foil this plan thanks to those faithful citizens who are fully aware of the ramifications of this plot.

UK Reportedly Agrees to Meeting on Lockerbie

LD1510181994 Tripoli JANA in English 1756 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, 15 OCT, (JANA)—Press sources today quoted a spokesman for the English Foreign Office [passage indistinct] that England accepted the holding of (?a meeting) between the Great Jamahiriyah and England in Cairo by the end of this month to discuss the Lockerbie issue and the IRA, [punctuation as received]

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The sources reported that the acceptance came in response to the proposal mentioned by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and international cooperation in a press interview published in London yesterday. Also, the sources quoted the English spokesman as saying that his country weclomed such a proposal and supported the idea of holding this meeting.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Malta

LD1510091494 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Malta, 15 Oct—The Great Jamahiriyah and Malta have signed the minutes of a cooperation agreement between them yesterday morning. The minutes were signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security and the Maltese interior minister. The signing of the minutes was attended by the Maltese foreign affairs minister and the sister secretary of the Libyan Arab people's bureau in Malta. The minutes emphasized the need to support and consolidate common cooperation for serving the interests of the two friendly peoples in the Great Jamahiriyah and Malta.

Sudanese Integration Delegation Holds Talks

LD1610190694 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The proceedings of the second session of the integration follow up committee between the Great Jamahiriyah and brotherly Sudan started this morning in Tripoli in the presence of the brother secretary of the General People's Committee of Unity and brother Awad al-Jaz, minister of presidency affairs in sisterly Sudan, and the delegation accompanying him.

The implementation of the agreements signed between the two fraternal countries were followed up during the meeting. The consolidation of the integration programs in the economic, cultural, and social spheres were also discussed in order to achieve the common interest of the sons of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and brotherly Sudan.

UN Delegation Makes Statement on Decolonization

LD1510174794 Tripoli JANA in English 1639 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, 15 Oct, (JANA)—The delegation of the Great Jamahiriyah to the United Nations reaffirmed the support of the Great Jamahiriyah for the peoples fighting for their [as received] and running (?their) economic and social developments according to their needs and national interest.

In a statement to the U.N political committee during a [word indistinct] on decolonisation, the delegation urged the U.N to fulfil its role in the implementation of the declaration (?granting) independence to colonized peoples and countries.

The delegation pointed out that there were many countries and peoples who did not gain their independence yet and that this represented a defiance of the will of the international community and denial of the right of peoples to self determination. The delegation asserted that many countries continued to suffer from the yoke of colonialism which required a speedy action to remove colonialism and its elimination from the international community and force colonialist countries to apologize for this dark era in the history of mankind and pay fair compensation to the peoples who suffered from colonial rule and the exploitation and depletion of their resources so that the colonialist countries will not resume these despicable acts against the international community.

The delegation called on the U.N to take action for the consolidation of the political and economic foundations of countries and force the colonialist (?states) to refrain from establishing military bases and installations or take any activities for testing, deploying or stockpiling nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction which may endanger the safety and proseprity of other countries and constitute a gross violation of the U.N resolutions.

Also the delegation urged the special committee on decolonisation to continue its efforts towards the enhancement of peoples' freedom and independence in a manner which safeguard their right to self determination and achieving independence.

Morocco

King To Choose Prime Minister From Opposition

LD1510035394 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1654 GMT 14 Oct 94

[Address by Moroccan King Hassan II at first session of second legislative season of the Chamber of Representatives in Rabat—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Thanks be to God and prayers and peace on our Lord the Messenger of God, his family, and his companions.

Ladies and gentlemen: I believe it is redundant to tell you again that I am pleased and glad to meet you, you who embody important social and political aspects of this country. You embody an era of renewal and the emergence of a new peaceful and quiet future for this country. [passage omitted]

We have, thanks be to God, acquired more confidence: firstly in ourselves, secondly in our solidarity, thirdly in our historic richness, and then in our visible and invisible security forces. I mean the whole of the Moroccan people by the words, the invisible security forces, the

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visible security forces being those who are undertaking and looking after the security of the citizens. [passage omitted]

Dear people, ladies and gentlemen, I have always repeated this old saying to you: Anyone who has any form of wealth is envied. [passage omitted]

Ladies and gentlemen, we have to rally for our homeland, bearing in mind that any country, whatever its importance and geographical position, God grants it things for which it becomes envied. It becomes a duty of that country to preserve and defend its gains. God bless you. Be the soldiers who take a unified stance to defend our security and safety.

After thanking God for all this, I remind you of the speech I made to the Moroccan people on 9 July: I then said that I wanted a change of governments. Change of governments, and because it is closer to the meaning and to the common language of the people, you will here nothing from me but this technical term: change of governments. I have said that I would like our country to experience an era of change of political power for one single reason: Because a democratic experience is void of any meaning unless it entails change of governments. We tried such an experience in conditions similar to these last year, but we were then hindered by the fact that the majority had to rule and the minority had to be in the opposition. That is why we said in our speech on the 9 July that we are expecting the opposition to come together in a coalition with whomever they wanted from this parliament and to form a majority government which would enable it to assume its role in the change of political power. Today we reiterate our intention and we say that God in his holy book said: Consult them in affairs; Then, when thou hast taken a decision put thy trust in God.

Consultations will start soon particularly as we, who have been brought up in tests, competition, and facing up to hardships, have decided again to put my dear people and the political family to the test, a positive test, one that would open new prospects in our country's parliamentary life.

We have decided to choose the Prime Minister from the group made up of the old opposition, and those who coalesced with it, in order to achieve the appropriate change-over of governments. This action we have undertaken has two objectives. The first one is to see if we are mature enough to face up to our responsibilities using the abilities God has given us. The second one is that we should adhere to the form and content of the Constitution which, while it does not prohibit choosing the Prime Minister from outside parliament, would rather he was chosen from within it. [passage omitted]

God bless you, bear in mind that as well being brought up to tests and hardships, I was also brought up to be honest and trustworthy. Personally I am trustworthy and I keep any financial or spiritual charge or any secret revealed to me. I am also honest and trustworthy in this task of mine being the commander of the believers and king of this peaceful country. [passage omitted]

As you know the Constitution charges the king of the country with duties among which steering the country's policy and guiding the ministers who put that policy into practice. My professional integrity does not allow me to stop here. Whenever I had a government, I supported it. Those who would come to work with me should know that they will find a Muslim, Moroccan, citizen-king supporting them from everywhere because manipulation is not allowed in such tasks.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have always been flexible with you and so have you always been with me. But I will quote the Koranic verse: Consult them in affairs—there I have consulted you—then, when thou hast taken a decision—I have made one—put thy trust in God—I have put my trust in God. God loves those who put there trust in him. Peace be upon you.

Prime Minister Returns From French Visit

LD1310215394 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, returned to Rabat this evening following an official visit to France at the invitation of his French counterpart, Edouard Balladur. During this visit, the prime minister held a series of talks with French officials and prominent businessmen in France. He was also received by French President Francois Mitterrand.

Here is the prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation commenting on the outcome of the visit:

[Begin Filali recording] As is known, the Moroccan delegation paid an official visit to France at the invitation of the French prime minister. I believe the visit was useful and came at a suitable time. It gave us the opportunity to exchange points of view regarding French-Moroccan relations and issues affecting these relations, as well as issues of common interest either in the region of the Mediterranean or on the international arena in general.

I believe that we can look with optimism to the outcome of this visit as it became clear to us during the visit that France still relies on Morocco as an influential state in this region and that it is prepared to cooperate with Morocco in all political, economic, and cultural spheres.

As it is already known, France is to assume the chairmanship of the European Union from the beginning of next year, and the French Government has officially promised full support to Morocco in its difficult talks with the European Union. As chairman of the European Union, France will play a fundamental role in this direction.

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We were also able to convince our colleagues in the French Government of Morocco's fundamental and objective stances; they showed understanding for our stances and we can say that we are going to benefit from French support in this issue. The presence of France in Casablanca's Middle East Economic Conference will be very useful and I consider it an essential presence.

After the meeting we met with French businessmen yesterday. It became clear they are prepared to bolster the French economic and financial presence in Morocco. In fact, the meeting was very important because it was attended by over 150 prominent and important French firms.

As I said at the beginning, we can look with optimism to the outcome of the visit which came at a very suitable time for the two sides to exchange points of view. Thank you. [end recording] [passage omitted]

UN Sahara Plan Entering 'Operational Phase'

LD1510140494 Rabat MAP in English 1226 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, Oct. 15 (MAP)—Morocco's permanent delegate to the United Nations Ahmed Snoussi said the UN settlement plan for the Sahara has entered an operational phase that requires from all a mature attitude that would not put at stake the decisive progress recorded by the settlement process.

Snoussi said before the UN 4th commission which was dealing with the granting of independence to colonized countries and peoples that Morocco firmly believes in the virtue of dialog and consultation to settle disputes. However, he said, dialog cannot be imposed by a side, apparent or real, to the other side, nor constitute a means to delay the implementation of the settlement plan that was accepted by the two sides and endorsed by the UN relevant bodies.

Snoussi holds the other side and the countries backing it fully responsible for the delays in implementing the plan as Morocco accepted as of December 1991 the criteria to identify the eligible people in the projected referendum in the Sahara.

The Moroccan delegate stated further that Morocco is not a colonial country and persisting in saying so is an insult not only to history but also to the common and heroic struggle waged by Maghreban peoples against colonialism. There is no need to list all the services rendered by Morocco in favor of decolonization, in southern Africa, in the Maghreb or in the former Portuguese colonies whose liberation movements were set up in Morocco in the early sixties, Snoussi said.

Pointing out that the Sahara problem is now at the hands of the international community which decided to settle it through the Security Council, Snoussi expressed hope that all the components of the Arab Maghreb would mobilize to settle the genuine problems of the region and ensure to the Maghreban community stability and development.

Snoussi once again renewed Morocco's determination to ease the task of the UN secretary general to help him organize the referendum in good conditions.

After Snoussi's address, the Moroccan delegation distributed to the commission members a draft resolution amending the initial draft presented by Algeria.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Angola

MB1410154894 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In Rabat yesterday, Angola and Morocco signed a cooperation agreement within the framework of preparations for the second session of the Angolan-Moroccan Joint Commission. The cooperation agreement was signed at the end of a visit to Morocco by Johnny Eduardo Pinok, Angolan state secretary for cooperation. The agreement covers the fields of transportation, fisheries, trade, tourism, and agriculture.

Minister Views Ongoing Privatization Process

LD1110141894 Rabat MAP in English 1244 GMT 11 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Oct. 11 (MAP)—The ongoing privatization operations in Morocco are taking place in a normal and satisfactory way, Moroccan Minister in Charge of Privatization Abderrahman Saaidi said.

In a report presented Monday at the weekly Government Council, Saaidi said 11 firms are being privatized, including three [word indistinct] refineries, [word indistinct] hotels and a fertilizers plant. In addition to the selling of 51 pc of the capital of the Moroccan investment company 'SNI', other enterprises operating in various sectors will be privatized in the near future, the minister said.

These enterprises include the External Trade Bank (BMCE) and the National Bank for Economic Development (BNDE) as well as 14 commercial and industrial firms and 12 hotels.

On his recent visit to the United Kingdom, Saaidi said he informed British economic operators and financial institutions on business opportunities offered by Morocco within the frame of the privatization program.

Alleged Sabotage Plot Leader Arrested

LD1610220494 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Oct 94

[Statement issued by the Interior Ministry; place and date not given]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The Interior Ministry announces that the so-called (Abderrahman Bou Jidli)—born in Aknoul, the province of Taza, on 5 March 1970, and resident in Montbeliard, France—was arrested at 1800 this evening in the suburbs of Nador.

As it is known, the aforementioned has been on the run since 24 August. He is the leader of a group of criminals who were planning to carry out armed sabotage action in Fez.

(Abderrahman Bou Jidli) was arrested by a group of citizens when he emerged out of a forest called (Baage) near (Douar Oulad Rahou Bin Isa), 30 km from Nador on the Oujda road, to obtain water.

The citizens handed the criminal to the elder of the area immediately after he was arrested. He was later taken to the Royal Gendarmerie headquarters where he was identified and then placed under investigation.

As it is known, the so-called (Abderrahman Bou Jidli) had hidden the weapons that were uncovered at his father's house in Aknoul, the province of Taza.

Magistrate Interrogates Algerian Suspect

LD1510133594 Rabat MAP in English 1242 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Fes, Oct. 15 (MAP)—Investigating magistrate at the Court of Appeal of Fes Abdelhakim Bouguettaya carried on Friday the interrogation of Algerian national Hamel Marzouk, arrested last September in connection with the August 24 attack of a hotel in Marrakech during which two Spanish tourists were killed.

The suspect who is also involved in the attacks of a bank in Oujda (eastern Morocco) and a fast-food restaurant in Casablanca is defended by French attorney Arman Mondenbourg from the Paris bar who attended the interrogation together with two attorneys appointed by the court in the frame of juridical assistance.

Marzouk was asked by a man named Rachid alias Abdelilah Ziad to perpetrate an armed attack against a synagogue in Casablanca but Marzouk renounced to carry out the operation in view of the security forces vigilance.

The investigating attorney decided to close the interrogation of another Moroccan-born French national Redouane Hammadi who refused to answer questions on advice from his lawyer, Marie-Paul Pioli. The French lawyer protests the presence of an attorney appointed by the court in the interrogation.

The French attorney told the media that the conflict opposing her to Abdelkhalek Kadi, the lawyer appointed by the court, will be referred to the head of the Fes bar. She also said she will hold a press conference this Saturday in Fes.

Sudan

Military Reportedly Launches Bombing Raids

AB1410215594 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 14 Oct 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There has been mounting speculation that following the collapse of the Sudan peace talks in Nairobi last month, the Khartoum Government will pursue the military option against Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] rebels in southern Sudan. The rainy season is coming to an end and the guess has been that the Sudan Army would launch another dry season offensive. Well, now there are reports reaching Lokichoggio in northwest Kenya, near the Sudan border, of government bombing raids in southern Sudan. Our correspondent Mwambu Wanendeya is in Lokichoggio. He faxed us this report:

According to an eyewitness in the area, MIG-fighter planes belonging to the Sudanese Government have launched several raids in Western Equatoria over the last two weeks. My source who was in the vicinity of the first two air raids told me that the first attack took place on Saturday, 1 October, when a MIG dropped several bombs near (Kalamet-Amadi). Reliable sources told me that the plane was targeting positions occupied by SPLA rebels who had crossed the nearby Yei River to attack a government town on the opposite bank a few days earlier.

There has been no word of casualties and the MIG aircraft appears to have missed its target because the SPLA guns which were shelling the town continued pounding it after the attack. The next day a MIG fighter carried out two bombing raids on the nearby town of Mundri but nobody was injured in this attack. On Monday [10 October], for the third consecutive day, the MIG fighters returned and bombed Nurei. It's not clear yet how many people were injured in this raid.

The spate of bombings appear to have been triggered off by the SPLA decision to cross the Yei River and attack the government-held garrison at Dhanab. It would appear that the MIGs had been trying to dislodge the SPLA from their new positions but so far they have had little success. A few days before the rebels crossed the river, the local SPLA commander is reported to have told the local people not to worry if they heard shelling because it would be from his forces. When the SPLA started shelling, the government forces returned fire and the fighting in the region is believed to be continuing. It's been difficult to get confirmation of this as communications to southern Sudan are very poor.

Planned Southern Offensive Aided by Iran, Iraq

NC1510170994 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Oct 94 p 9

[From "The Brothers" Page]

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[FBIS Translated text] Sources in Khartoum have affirmed that the Islamic Front government has completed its preparations regarding the "Misk al-Khitam" campaign against the Popular Movement in Southern Sudan. The government, according to the sources, has 15 October as the date for the start of the campaign, after the arrival of military aid from Iran and Iraq at Port Sudan the week before last. The sources said that four bombers had already arrived at Port Sudan's air base.

In an attempt to conceal the government's offensive plan with excuses, the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo has issued a statement accusing the Popular Movement of attacking the government forces in (Kapwita), east Equatoria. It is worth noting that such statements are usually not released by diplomatic missions. Meanwhile, the Ugandan president has urged the countries of the world to swiftly stop the impending offensive against the Popular Movement and the innocent civilians in southern Sudan.

A military source in the Sudanese opposition said that the world and the United Nations must now realize the real intentions of the Sudanese Government. The source stressed that the Government's plan is aimed at exterminating the southerners by means of a campaign supported by certain countries. The source urged world organizations to move quickly to stop this imminent massacre.

Sudan National Radio Appoints New Director

EA1610200094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sudan National Radio Corporation has a new director as of today, Sunday, 16th October 1994. He is Mr. (Salah al-Din al-Fadhil Usud). The appointment came in accordance with a resolution issued by minister of culture and information.

Meanwhile, the former director Mr. (Habib Tayyib al-Sarraj) has similarly been appointed by a similar decree as acting secretary- general of the Ministry of Culture and Information.

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Kuwait

Council of Ministers: Iraq Still Poses Threat

LD1410182694 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers held an extraordinary session this afternoon at the People's Palace under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime Minister. Speaker of the National Assembly, Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun also attended.

'Abd al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of planning, said that the council discussed the latest developments resulting from the recent military threats and provocations by the Iraqi regime forces against the State of Kuwait and the states of the region, which represented a link in the chain of continuous violations of international resolutions which the Iraqi regime has become accustomed on committing.

At the outset of its meeting the Council of Ministers welcomed the statements issued by the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and other friendly countries for the sentiments they contained, which embody their full awareness of the aggressive intentions of the Iraqi regime and its attempts to ignore international resolutions, and which reflect the keen interest of those countries in establishing firm foundations for security, stability and peace in this region.

The Council of Ministers was also apprised of reports circulated by the information media about the communique released yesterday after the meeting of Federal Russia's foreign minister with the Iraqi president in Baghdad. In this respect the State of Kuwait, while appreciating the efforts exerted by the foreign minister of Federal Russia, Mr. Andrey Kozyrev, in respect of urging the Iraqi regime to implement all Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against the State of Kuwait, sees that the continued concentration of Iraqi military forces in their present positions still constitutes a serious threat to its security and sovereignty in light of the hidden aggressive intentions of the Iraqi regime toward the State of Kuwait and the states of the region, which were confirmed by the recent escalation and the repeated utterances of the representatives of the Iraqi regime and its various information media, a matter which necessitates a continuous military coordination with fraternal and friendly states to confront those threats.

The State of Kuwait also sees that talk about lifting the economic sanctions imposed on the Iraqi regime as a result of the recent escalation created by this regime constitutes a reward and an encouragement to that regime to continue its violations of international resolutions.

The State of Kuwait, while stressing that this regime can not be trusted, and will not hesitate from repeating its threats when circumstances allow, demands that the Security Council shoulder its responsibilities to put an end to the violations and threats by the Iraqi regime against the State of Kuwait and the states of the region through the adoption of effective measures that will ensure the security of Kuwait and the respect of its sovereignty, independence, and the inviolability of its international borders, and also the security of the states of the region according to the seventh chapter of the United Nations Charter.

Kuwait also stresses that the translation of sincere intentions to create an atmosphere of peace and stability and relations of good-neighborliness in the region comes through serious and full commitment to the implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions.

Council of Ministers Welcomes UNSC Resolution

LD1610165394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1537 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 Oct—The State of Kuwait has welcomed the resolution passed by the UN Security Council at dawn today and the resolution's condemnation of the provocations and threats that the Iraqi regime has recently made against the State of Kuwait and that constitute a threat to security and stability in the region.

This was announced by 'Abd-al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of planning, after the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers' meeting today, which was chaired by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister.

Dakhil said that the resolution included a demand that Iraq should immediately complete the withdrawal of all its forces to their original positions, that it should not use its forces to threaten its neighbors or UN operations, and that it should not bring these forces back southward or reinforce its military capabilities there. The resolution also called on Iraq to abide by and respect the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait, its regional security, and its international borders under Resolutions 833 and 687 in accordance with constitutional and official procedures. [passage omitted]

He added that the Council of Ministers had expressed the thanks and gratitude of the State of Kuwait to all the UN Security Council member states for their noble stance and the shouldering of their responsibilities in deterring the Iraqi regime, thus stressing the authority of international legitimacy and its effective role in achieving justice and peace in the world. [passage omitted]

Dakhil also said that Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah had informed the Council of the results of the visit that he made with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry and the content of Perry's talks with His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah,

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amir of the State of Kuwait, and Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister. He indicated that the talks had focused on current developments on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders and the means of developing and coordinating U.S.-Kuwaiti cooperation in the military field.

Resolution Said 'Sufficient Guarantee'

LD1610162394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 Oct—Sulayman Majik al-Shahin, undersecretary at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, has praised UN Security Council Resolution 949 issued at dawn today which is related to the Iraqi military provocations near the Kuwaiti borders. He stressed that it constituted a sufficient guarantee that Iraqi threats, such as those that occurred last week, will not be repeated.

In a statement to KUNA in which he commented on the UN Security Council Resolution that was passed unanimously by all the Security Council members, al-Shahin said that the fourth paragraph, which calls on Iraq not to amass its forces southward or take any other measures to reinforce its military capability in the south: "Constitutes a sufficient guarantee that it will not repeat its recent actions."

He added that this paragraph: "Has given the Security Council flexibility of movement in monitoring the area and curbing the movements of the Baghdad regime." [passage omitted]

He said that the third paragraph, which calls on Iraq not to use its forces again in a hostile or provocative manner, did not include any indication of a specified period of time, which: "Confirmed that the Security Council is serious in confronting any Iraqi threats."

Al-Shahin stressed that the introductory paragraphs of this resolution which are in force clarifies the situation particularly with regard to the recognition by Iraq of the State of Kuwait and the borders between the two countries that have been demarcated recently through a UN commission accredited by the UN Security Council.

He pointed out that the Council stressed in its introductory Paragraph 8 the need for Iraq to abide, in an unambiguous way through complete, official, and constitutional measures, [word indistinct] that the Iraqi recognition of the State of Kuwait, if it comes in an unclear way, will leave some doubt on the real intentions of the Iraqi Government and consequently the lifting of the UN sanctions imposed on it will be more difficult.

He also said that if serious and convincing steps that confirm that Iraq was serious in this recognition of the State of Kuwait were taken, then it would be possible to look into lifting the sanctions imposed on it.

UN Envoy on UNSC Resolution, Russia-Iraq Contacts

LD1510102194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0953 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 15 Oct—Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan, Kuwaiti representative at the United Nations, has emphasized that the draft resolution which is expected to be adopted by the UN Security Council today, constitutes a security belt which will guarantee that Iraq will not repeat its threats to Kuwaiti security.

In an interview with Kuwaiti television from New York today, Abu-al-Hasan said that the resolution "restricts or freezes the number of Iraqi troops allowed south of the 32nd parallel and restricts them to the positions in which they were stationed before 6 October." [passage omitted]

About the Russian-Iraqi statement on the Iraqi regime's recognition of Kuwait which was issued recently, the Kuwaiti UN representative said: "Thus far, Iraq is merely expressing some intentions, but there is no explicit declaration of respecting Kuwaiti sovereignty and independence in accordance with Resolution 833."

He added: "We are awaiting the arrival of the vice president of the Iraqi regime in New York next Monday to see what he will bring with him and whether it is what the UN Security Council wants or what the Iraqi regime wants."

In reply to a question on the Iraqi regime's choice of Russia to participate in issuing the statement, the Kuwaiti UN representative said that there are other considerations, including Russia's wish to have a role in the region and the Iraqi debts to Russia, as well as the Iraqi considerations which include breaking the unity of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

He added: "There are no concessions and I cannot imagine the Russian Federation abandoning rights specified by [UN] resolutions for the sake of economic interests."

About the French stance, Abu-al-Hasan said that it is solid in defending Kuwait and "commits Iraq to adhere to a legal unit entitled Resolution 687." He pointed out that France has been insistent that Iraq must adhere to respecting the minorities in northern and southern Iraq, i.e. human rights.

Abu-al-Hasan referred to France's support for the draft resolution, which will stop Iraq in the future threatening the security of Kuwait and will put an end to the Iraqi concentrated military presence south of al-Basrah.

In reply to another question about the possibilities of a U.S. preemptive strike without further consultations with the UN Security Council, Abu-al-Hasan said: "This right is included in paragraph four of Resolution 687. This right is also included and repeated in paragraph five

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of Resolution 833 on the demarcation of borders, and the legal experts and jurists are convinced that using all possible methods means using arms."

Minister Dismisses Impact of 'Fifth Column'

MM1410110094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Oct 94 p 2

[Interview with Nasir al-Rawdan, second deputy prime minister and finance minister, by Fadyah al-Zu'bi in Kuwait; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Zu'bi] Is it true that Iraqi forces have withdrawn far from the Kuwaiti border?

[Al-Rawdan] Even if Iraqi forces have withdrawn, this withdrawal means nothing to us. Because last week's deployments revealed the Iraqi regime's aggressive nature. Certainly those who deployed these forces are capable of returning them to the same area. Although news agencies have carried the news of the withdrawal, there is nothing to prove it to us. The regime might move its forces in a certain direction, but in the end we see that the Iraqi aggression is continuing as long as the Security Council resolutions related to the war to liberate Kuwait have not been implemented. We believe that something has to be done to prevent that regime from repeating its threats.

[Al-Zu'bi] And what do you think should be done?

[Al-Rawdan] We are talking about international resolutions adopted by an international organization; the world is responsible for making arrangements [for their implementation]. We in Kuwait are completely willing to face all possibilities within our capabilities and resources and with the help of the brothers and friends. The stability of security in the region and ending the state of tension in it are the responsibility of the world as a whole in implementation of the Security Council resolutions. And Iraq has no option but to implement these resolutions.

[Al-Zu'bi] Three options are raised on the scene as solutions in order to end Iraqi military threats: establishing a land exclusion zone in south Iraq, launching a military strike to destroy part of the Iraqi war material, or keeping deterrent forces in the region. Which option does Kuwait favor?

[Al-Rawdan] Kuwait always favors what safeguards its security, its safety, its territorial integrity, and the sanctity of its territory. These options are the responsibility of the international community, which we also believe is responsible for safeguarding the region's security and stability.

[Al-Zu'bi] Is there any tendency to open communication channels between Kuwait and the Iraqi people?

[Al-Rawdan] The Iraqi people's problem lies in their regime. The claim that Kuwait is one the states seeking to starve the Iraqi people is untrue. Kuwait contributed to providing humanitarian aid and food supplies to the Iraqi people. It is their regime that is responsible for the tragedy the Iraqi people are experiencing. Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 stipulate a mechanism for Iraq to sell part of its oil to provide food supplies and humanitarian material. But the Iraqi regime does not want to implement these two resolutions. So it alone should be held responsible for its people's tragedy. We in Kuwait still believe that the Iraqi people are the prisoners and the ones harmed most by the existence of that regime, which has accustomed the world to adventures on which it embarks from time to time, beginning with an eight-year war against neighboring Iran through to a war against the world through its invasion of Kuwait and the escalation on which it is embarking now. If a military confrontation takes place, only God knows the scale of the losses.

As for our relationship with the Iraqi people, it has not been severed. We differentiate between the people and the regime. But this people remain helpless and afflicted by their regime.

[Al-Zu'bi] Kuwaiti officials said that a fifth column in the country is circulating rumors and spreading confusion. Who are its elements, what is its size, and how dangerous is it?

[Al-Rawdan] The Kuwaiti people are now more alert, mature, and cohesive. Their position during the crisis reflect their ability and resoluteness. In every society there is a fifth column circulating rumors and spreading confusion, but it has no effect in Kuwait due to the clarity of vision and the justness of the cause. I can confirm that the world as a whole has stood by Kuwait in this predicament. This position, which the Kuwaiti people and their government appreciate, did not come from a vacuum, but as a result of the Kuwaiti people's unity and resoluteness and the justness of their cause. They want to live in their country in peace. Fifth columns exist everywhere. But we in Kuwait are alert to the rumors circulated and the confusion spread by it [fifth column], which is why its effect is nonexistent.

[Al-Zu'bi] What changes have occurred in the positions of the states called "hostile states?"

[Al-Rawdan] Numerous changes have occurred. They ranged from complete silence without supporting Iraq to clear condemnation of Iraq. These changes in positions are attributable to the clarity of the Kuwaiti rights and the justness of the cause. Perhaps some people have come to their senses.

[Al-Zu'bi] Does Kuwait's foreign policy proceed primarily from its being a Gulf Cooperation Council member, a state in the region, an Arab state, or a state within the new world order force?

[Al-Rawdan] We are a small peace-loving, nonaligned state. We know our capabilities and our borders, and we do not pretend to be bigger than we are in this world.

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Kuwait is an Arab state bound to its sisters in the Gulf region by distinct relations. It has a positive and influential role in the world. Its development and humanitarian contributions to world states exceed those offered by many states with more capabilities and resources. The distinct status it is enjoying now among world states is the result of this policy. So we are part of this world. We are an Arab League member and a state bound to our Gulf sisterly states by distinct relations.

[Al-Zu'bi] What is your estimate of the increase in the Defense Ministry's spending as a result of the current situation?

[Al-Rawdan] Certainly the spending of numerous government quarters—like the Defense Ministry, the Interior Ministry, the Communications Ministry, and so on—will increase as a result of

U.S. Secretary of Defense Visits, Praises Troops

LD1510110894 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir, accompanied by U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, visited 35th Armored Brigade stationed at the front lines. The defense minister and his guest were accompanied by Chief of Staff Major General 'Ali al-Mu'min, the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait, and a number of senior officers.

The U.S. defense secretary addressed the Kuwaiti officers and soldiers praising their high morale. He said that the Kuwaiti troops are at the forefront of the forces deployed in the desert to confront the Iraqi regime's threats. William Perry also praised the high standard, organization, and equipment of the Kuwaiti forces and their continuous readiness to face up to any emergency.

The defense minister and his entourage inspected a number of advanced military positions in the region.

Confirms Iraqi Withdrawal

NC1510133994 Paris AFP in English 1319 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Oct 15 (AFP)—US Secretary of Defence William Perry confirmed Saturday that Iraq was pulling back its Republican Guard forces and said he was now optimistic of a peaceful outcome to the Gulf standoff.

"The latest intelligence that we have is that the Iraqi Republican Guard forces have partially withdrawn," Perry said at a desert camp north of here for US troops deployed to defend Kuwait.

"We are continuing our deployment ... we are not pocketing a peaceful outcome yet," he said. "But I am optimistic at this stage."

In Baghdad, Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi said earlier that Iraq had ordered the withdrawal of its last crack Republican Guard division still deployed in the south.

"They are not yet north of the 32nd parallel but the encampment they are making right now, according to our intelligence sources, looks like a temporary encampment, rather than digging," Perry said, in a pooled news agency report.

"And it looks like they are simply looking for the transportation to take them north," the secretary of defence added.

The latest standoff erupted last week after Iraqi troops massed near the Kuwaiti border, triggering a deployment of US forces in the Gulf to prevent a replay of Iraq's August 1990 invasion of the emirate.

But on Wednesday, Iraq announced it was rolling back the buildup, which Washington said amounted to 80,000 soldiers.

The United States has said it was sending more than 30,000 troops to the Gulf region as well as an aircraft carrier and hundreds of warplanes. Around 4,000 US Marines and soldiers have arrived so far in Kuwait.

Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev Arrives for Talks

Conveys 'Assurances' From Iraqis

LD1410144894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1408 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait City, 14 Oct 94—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stressed on arrival here today that Kuwait could rely on Russia to support it and guarantee its security and sovereignty. Speaking at a news conference, he said that he carried several proposals for safeguarding security in the Gulf region and that he would discuss those proposals with the political leadership of Kuwait. He said: "I have some good news for the Kuwaiti people concerning consolidation of their country's independence." Kozyrev, who had met Saddam Husayn on Thursday, also said that "he had obtained assurances from Iraqi officials concerning their recognition of the state of Kuwait and its borders in accordance with the resolutions of the UN Security Council in this regard."

Kozyrev added: "The Iraqi leadership's recognition of the State of Kuait is clear and open. However, the official declaration of such by Baghdad will come soon after the talks which I will hold with other concerned parties."

Answering a question about the suitable form this recognition will take, Kozyrev said: "The matter is up to the legal experts of the United Nations to decide whether additional measures are needed to make the recognition adequately acceptable."

Kozyrev added that Russia stands against whatever threatens the security of the State of Kuwait and the security of any state in the region. At the same time, it wants to calm the situation and search for diplomatic solutions to the crisis.

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Kozyrev said the Russian leadership has been keen to send a clear and strong message to Baghdad since the beginning of the Iraqi forces' moves toward the south of Iraq.

He added: "I beleieve that the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces is due to the message which we sent and to my visit to Baghdad, where we asked them to calm the situation."

On his part, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, welcomed Kozyrev's visit and expressed the hope that cooperation between Kuwait and Russia would ensure the non-recurrence of the Iraqi threats.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad added: "We hope the tricks played by Saddam Husayn, not only with Kuwait but also with the world as a whole, will not be repeated."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad expressed his appreciation of Mr. Kozyrev's mission to calm the situation in the region. He stressed that the responsibility undertaken by Russia and the Security Council is a big task because "intentions are not everything."

He said Kuwait is prepared to listen to the proposals carried by Mr. Kozyrev, as Kozyrev will meet the amir tomorrow to discuss them.

The Russian minister visited Baghdad before his arrival in Kuwait, where he met the head of the Iraqi regime, and a joint Russio-Iraqi communique was issued at the end of his visit.

Meets Amir, U.S. Secretary of Defense

LD1510111694 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At 0630 this morning his highness the amir of the country received His Excellency Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, and the accompanying delegation on the occasion of his visit to the country.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al- Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister; Minister of Amir's Affairs Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad; and the Russian ambassador to the State of Kuwait.

His highness the amir, may God preserve him, received at 0715 this morning His Excellency William Perry, the U.S. secretary of defense, and the accompanying delegation on the occasion of his visit to the country.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister; Minister of Amir's Affairs Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad; Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir; and the ambassador of the United States of America to the State of Kuwait.

Amir, Kozyrev Meeting Said 'Fruitful'

LD1510144894 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, expressed the appreciation of the State of Kuwait for Russia's efforts in connection with the issue of the Iraqi recognition of Kuwait.

This came in a statement by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, who was bidding farewell to Andrey Kozyrev, Russian foreign affairs minister, who left the country today.

The first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister said that the meeting that his highness the amir and the heir apparent and prime minister held with the Russian foreign affairs minister was fruitful. He pointed out that during the meeting his highness stressed the relations which have bound Kuwait and Russia for a long time.

Says 'No Deal' With Iraq, Departs

LD1510135494 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev stressed that there is no deal between Russia and the Iraqi regime which would include Iraq's recognition of the State of Kuwait in return for the lifting of the international sanctions imposed on the Iraqi regime.

In a news conference he held before leaving Kuwait today, Kozyrev said that the Security Council's resolutions are completely clear, i.e. the need to implement all resolutions, followed by the lifting of sanctions.

[Begin Kozyrev recording, in English] There is no point any more in sanctions, but this does not mean any reward for this crisis. This crisis is a separate thing, and Saddam promised to withdraw forces. [end recording]

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, referred to the effort made by the the Government of the Russian Federation, represented by its foreign affairs minister.

[Begin al-Jabir recording] The Government of the Russian Federation, as represented by the foreign affairs minister, has agreed to make efforts in connection with the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners and peace in the region. At the same time, this issue will be discussed within the framework of the Security Council and in consultation with friends in the Security Council, but I do not want to make more comments on this issue. [end recording]

The Russian foreign affairs minister has left the country and headed for the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

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Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, a number of high-ranking officials from the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and the ambassador of the Russian Federation to the State of Kuwait bade him farewell.

French Foreign Minister Juppe Arrives

LD1710110494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1029 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 17 Oct KUNA—French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe arrived today from the Sultanate of Oman. He is paying an official visit to Kuwait which will last a few hours. [passage omitted]

This visit is within the framework of a Gulf tour, during which he has visited Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and the Sultanate of Oman.

Juppe stressed the importance of Iraq's compliance with the UN Security Council's resolutions. He also emphasized the need for Iraq to recognize the sovereignty and independence of the State of Kuwait and its international borders.

UNIKOM on Plan To Block Iraqi 'Civilians' Crossing

LD1610134194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1217 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Um Qasr, 16 Oct (KUNA)—UNIKOM [United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission] commander, Major General Krishna Thapa, today announced that a contingency plan has been formulated to deal with Iraqi civilians who might try to use force to cross the demilitarized zone between Kuwait and Iraq.

Major General Thapa refused to disclose the plan's details to the information delegation visiting the UNIKOM headquarters at Um Qasr. He pointed out, however, that UNIKOM has asked Iraq to bar Iraqi civilians who are outside the demilitarised zone from crossing the interational borders.

Thapa put the figure of civilians who are camping in tents in Iraqi territory since 6 October, some two meters outside the demilitarised zone, at more than 4,000.

Kuwaiti officials claim that the Iraqi civilians on the borders are soldiers in civilian clothes.

The Security Council today passed a resolution urging Iraq to refraim from using military or any other force in an aggressive, provocative or threatening manner against its neighbors or against UN activities inside Iraq.

Thapa described the situation as calm and normal, and said "there is no need for fear." He stressed that UNIKOM forces were recently boosted and that they are on a continuous state of alert to stop any violation of UN resolutions in the demilitarized zone.

UAE's Second Deployment of Land Forces Arrive

LD1510140594 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The second batch of the land forces from the sisterly United Arab Emirates arrived today. They will join the forces of the international alliance stationed on the northern borders of the State of Kuwait to confront the Iraqi threats. [passage omitted]

Third Deployment Joins Forces

LD1610201594 Kuwait KSC Television in English 1700 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The third batch of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] land forces arrived in Kuwait this morning via (?Salmiya) border crossing to join the friendly international forces which are deployed at the northern border of the state of Kuwait to respond to any threats of the Iraqi regime and maintain peace on the Kuwaiti territories.

Court Postpones Hearing in Bush Case

LD1710091894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0811 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 17 Oct (KUNA)—The court of cassation today postponed until 24 November its hearing of the case of the terrorist network which tried to assassinate Former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to the State of Kuwait last year and its attempts at sabotage on Kuwait's territory on orders of Iraqi intelligence. The hearing was postponed to enable the defense to complete its case.

Saudi Arabia

Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev Pays Visit

Arrives in Jeddah

LD1510210294 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2036 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 15 Oct—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived here tonight.

Russian diplomatic sources told the Kuwaiti News Agency that Kozyrev and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal were due to hold a round of talks.

The sources thought it was unlikely for Kozyrev to meet King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, later this evening. [passage indistinct]

Kozyrev is expected to leave for New York for further talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the situation and developments in the region.

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Speaks With King Fahd

LD1510224394 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 15 Oct (SPA)—The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, received at his office today His Excellency the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and the delegation which accompanied him. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. [passage omitted]

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his delegation arrived in Jeddah earlier this evening. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference

LD1610112994 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 16 Oct (SPA)—His Excellency Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev last night held a news conference before leaving the Kingdom.

His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who saw his excellency the Russian foreign minister off, made the following statement at the beginning of the news conference: His excellency's meeting with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, was positive. His excellency briefed King Fahd on his contacts of the last few days. The custodian of the two holy mosques welcomed his excellency and reiterated to him a number of points which are important not only to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia but also to the rest of the Gulf countries. They dealt with the crisis created by the Iraqi regime when it moved two divisions toward the border with Kuwait.

His Highness Prince Sa'ud added: In this respect, the custodian of the two holy mosques expressed his view that the Iraqi action is unacceptable and that Iraq should not benefit from it. He also expressed his hope that the Security Council will take a firm stance in not only calling for the withdrawal of these forces to their former positions but also in making sure that this action is not repeated in the future.

His highness also said that the lifting of sanctions [against Iraq] was an important topic of the talks. The custodian of the two holy mosques pointed out, however, that this matter should be linked, in general, to the implementation of all the Security Council's resolutions.

In this connection, he underlined the great importance of the unity of the international community, particularly of the UN Security Council, and the implementation of these resolutions which are of crucial importance to the stability and prosperity of the region.

His highness added: "What we have realized is that the Iraqis have been trying to maneuver in order to achieve some progress by concluding a separate deal outside the work of the UN Security Council and the framework of the UN Security Council resolutions."

His highness also said that the Russian Federation supports the implementation of these resolutions through the work and the activity of the UN Security Council. All of us were pleased with the meeting between the custodian of the two holy mosques and the [Russian] minister. As the custodian of the two holy mosques told him, we hope that he will visit the kingdom not only at times of crisis but also at other times so that he can see the kingdom and meet with people in this country.

Afterwards, his excellency the Russian foreign minister made a speech in which he said: I wish to express my gratitude to the custodian of the two holy mosques and to my colleague the foreign minister and other officials for their great welcome and for appreciating President Yeltsin's humble efforts to help solve this crisis and other problems connected with Iraq's implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions in question. I agree with what my colleague Prince Sa'ud has said. Therefore, there is no need to go into details regarding the identity of stands on the two issues, namely that the current crisis should be brought to an end and that there is a need to move further to ensure the complete implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. I intend to go now to New York to take part in other activities in this connection.

Kozyrev later answered journalists' questions. Replying to a question on the reasons behind Iraq's recognition of Kuwait, his excellency said: I do know them, and I cannot think of any. What we have to do here is to make sure that the problem is not repeated. It is important here that Iraq should understand, as was stated in the joint statements in Baghdad, that once all Security Council resolutions are implemented it will be possible to lift the sanctions. If Iraq wants the sanctions lifted, it is clear that it must implement these resolutions. This is the only way to see the sanctions lifted.

He added: This is clear. It is important that Iraq has understood this in the [Baghdad] statement, which I believe was a real achievement. It is also important that it should understand the need to fully recognize the state of Kuwait and its borders in accordance with the Security Council's resolutions. I think such recognition is very important. And it is better here that one should not guess but wait for facts and deeds.

Asked about the reaction to the Russian mission by the Gulf countries he has toured, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in particular, his excellency the Russian foreign minister said: I think there were elements of diplomacy in the assertions by the custodian of the two holy mosques. Although we have achieved a number of positive results, it is clear that there is still plenty of work ahead, particularly at the United Nations. We have agreed to coordinate our efforts with our colleagues in Saudi Arabia and in the

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other Gulf countries. I think we are on the right track. Despite a number of positive results, however, there is still a long way ahead.

Asked about his statement in Kuwait about a proposal to bolster its security, Kozyrev said: One of the important things he has achieved is the fact that the Iraqi leadership has recognized that Kuwait is not an Iraqi province but a sovereign state which it must recognize in accordance with Resolution 833. It is obvious that this is a very important development, even though it is not enough in itself because Iraq must implement all UN resolutions. However, it is a step in the right direction toward guaranteeing the security and stability of Kuwait and of the whole region.

Replying to a question on whether he believes the Security Council will acknowledge the results of the current Russian mediation, Kozyrev said: Without any doubt. I think there will be unanimity on the need to coordinate and cooperate at the Security Council meeting on Monday. We will be cooperating with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and I am sure that we will be able to explain everything in a responsible manner and in the spirit of cooperation and coordination if the American side has any queries as far as security in the region is concerned. The latter should be given priority. This is what Russia seeks as long as anyone else can surmount individual ambitions and aspirations.

I believe that when we have been able to do everything we can, things can only move in the right direction.

Asked about his conversation with the custodian of the two holy mosques, he said: "It is very important that we know the view of the custodian of the two holy mosques. I was specially instructed by President Yeltsin to visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and make clear to it the details of all attitudes. We know that the custodian of the two holy mosques is one of the most prominent leaders of the region and he commands enormous political experience.

I am fully satisfied that our stands have become identical and we will coordinate our future activities. The custodian of the two holy mosques wished me success in New York. I believe I have drawn the necessary conclusions from this conversation and from similar important meetings with the Gulf leaders so that we can continue our initiatives and efforts."

At the end of the news conference His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal commented: "I would not describe the Russian minister's visit as a journey of mediation, one which is aimed at implementing the UN Security Council's resolutions and finding ways of implementing these resolutions.

Thus, it is not a visit for the purpose of mediating between Iraq and another state. In this connection, I consider it very important that all of us should proceed along the same path. I believe that his excellency's visit and the conversation he had with the custodian of the two holy mosques made this issue quite clear.

We still need to stress the unity of the UN Security Council members, especially the permanent ones, not only in bringing this crisis created by Iraq to an end, but also in implementing the UN Security Council's resolutions so that peace and stability can return to the area."

His highness concluded his statement by saying: "In the light of all that has been said, the situation requires cooperation in implementing all the other UN Security Council resolutions."

Asked about what Russia will raising at the United Nations, his highness said: "As I said in my statement, the custodian of the two holy mosques has explained that there are two basic issues: solving the current crisis resulting from the movement of Iraqi forces toward the Kuwaiti border, and implementing the UN Security Council's resolutions concerning the Iraqi crisis. There is no link between these two issues. This means that Saddam Husayn must not be rewarded by lifting the sanctions for withdrawing the forces to their former positions".

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, stressed to the visiting minister that before anything else there must be a commitment to the UN Security Council's resolutions so that they are implemented in full by Iraq; other matters can be discussed later. Iraq's implementation of these resolutions is considered the basis and the foundation.

Departs Jeddah

LD1610005094 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0025 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 15 Oct (SPA)—His Excellency Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Andrey Kozyrev and the delegation accompanying him this evening [15 October] left Jeddah. His Excellency was seen off at the King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Foreign Minister, the Russian Ambassador to the Kingdom and a representative from the Royal Protocol Department.

Ministry Statement on Arrests for 'Incitement'

LD1610083794 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0622 GMT 16 Oct 94

[Statement issued by the Ministry of the Interior; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 16 Oct (SPA)—Thanks be to the Lord of the Universe, and prayers and peace be upon God's most honored messengers.

In accordance with the contents of the statement issued on 24 Sep 1994, which was released and published by

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local and foreign media concerning the security measures taken by the ministry to resolve the situation resulting from infringements by some persons who failed to abide by what was pronounced against them in the statement of the senior Ulema Council, and referred to in the speech by his eminence the grand mufti of the kingdom and head of the senior Ulema Council, ordered the lofty office [the king] to carry out the contents of the statement with regard to the actions of incitement and congregation.

This led some of them to breach the security of the country, a matter that called on the security organs concerned to intervene to tackle the situation by taking into custody those who were behind the agitation and the sedition. In a previous statement it was announced that the number of those taken into custody was 110 persons.

After investigation it was learnded that there were other persons who were involved in what took place, and this required that they too be taken into custody for interrogation. The number of those who were under arrest was 157 persons. Interrogation of those who are less responsible has ended, and their number is 130 persons. These admitted their errors and their actions against the homeland. They regretted what they had done and pledged not to repeat any of their actions. They have been released. As for the rest, their number is 27 persons, and they played major, harmful roles. They are still under interrogation and their case will be considered soon after the completion of their interrogation.

The Ministry of Interior affirms that it will proceed in all its actions in accordance with what will safeguard the interest of our country, and ward off any harm to its religion and worldly matters. The ministry is keen to ensure that its actions are in accordance with the Holy Koran and the teachings of the Prophet—may the prayers and peace of God be upon him—in fulfillment of the desire of the custodian of the two holy mosques—may God guide his steps—to safeguard the interests of the nation, and his assertions that dealing with the issues that affect security of the citizens and the stability of the country be in harmony with the Islamic shari'ah.

The Ministry of Interior hopes, after such explanations, that the pardon and the release of those persons by the ruler, the custodian of the two holy mosques—may God protect him—will be an opportunity for them to abide by their pledge, after having confessed to their errors and reiterated their regret, not to repeat the offences and stay above any suspicion, as any further offences will be to their detriment.

The Ministry reaffirms that people who act against religion or the security of the country through writing or in any other way will face appropriate measures of deterrence.

We ask Almighty God to guide everyone to the righteous path, to forgive erroneous Muslims, and protect this country's security and stability. God Almighty is our guide to the right path.

United Arab Emirates

Russia's Kozyrev Arrives in Abu Dhabi

JN1510145794 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Oct (WAKH)—Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Abu Dhabi from Kuwait this afternoon. He is on a brief visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as part of a tour of certain countries in the region.

During the visit, Kozyrev is expected to hold talks with senior UAE officials on recent Gulf developments and bilateral ties.

Briefs President, Departs

LD1510183994 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1740 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu-Dhabi, 15 Oct—UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, this evening received Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Kozyrev briefed Shaykh Zayid on the results of his tour of the region within the framework of Russian efforts to resolve the crisis caused by the Iraqi regime's threats to Kuwait.

The Russian minister left Abu-Dhabi this evening after a brief visit to the UAE.

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'Text' of Resolution 949, Russian Role Reported

JN1610110094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN Security Council, this morning, Baghdad local time, unanimously adopted Resolution 949. Following is the text of the resolution:

Acting in accordance with Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, the Security Council:

1. Denounces the military deployment operations carried out by Iraq recently near the border with Kuwait.

2. Demands the immediate and complete withdrawal by Iraq of all military units recently deployed in southern Iraq to their previous positions.

3. Demands Iraq not to again use its military forces, or any other forces, in a hostile or provocative manner to threaten its neighbors or the UN operations in Iraq.

4. Demands Iraq not to redeploy the units mentioned in Paragraph 2 toward the south, or take other measures to reinforce its military capability in southern Iraq.

5. Demands Iraq to fully cooperate with the UN Special Commission.

6. Has decided to keep the issue under consideration.

The Security Council all day yesterday held intensive consultations in which the Russian delegation threatened the Council to use the veto if the United States does not agree to delete a paragraph of the draft resolution demanding Iraq to inform the UN secretary general 15 days in advance if it wants to dispatch troops to the southern part of Iraq, and if Iraq violates this paragraph, the Council would use force against it.

Russia's position at the Security Council was supported by France, China, Pakistan, Spain, and New Zealand. Therefore, the United States was compelled to comply for fear that the Russian Federation would use its veto right, which would have led to the collapse of the entire resolution. After the United States agreed to delete this paragraph, the Russian side proposed some amendments to the draft resolution, around which extensive consultations were held until it was issued in its final form.

An INA correspondent at the United Nations says that, nevertheless, the U.S. ambassador claimed that the resolution sanctions the use of force, while Russian Representative Vassily Sidorov told journalists that the endorsed resolution does not provide a basis for any use of military force. Confirming the same orientation, French Ambassador Merimee said: Resolution 949 does not authorize anybody to use military force against Iraq. He said any different interpretation can be discussed through UN Security Council consultations in due course.

UNSC Members' Remarks on Resolution 949 Reported

JN1610120594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1138 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New York, 16 Oct (INA)—This morning, Baghdad time, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 949. [passage omitted]

Following are the chief delegates' remarks during last night's Security Council meeting:

Nigeria's chief delegate said that his country welcomes the states' efforts to resolve the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait, and stresses the need to establish relations between countries on the basis of mutual respect and the recognition of sovereignty and the right to adopt the required self-defense measures without being threatened by other states.

Nigeria acknowledges the need for Iraq's compliance with UN Security Council resolutions. It also acknowledges the positive steps that have been taken by Iraq to implement Part C of Resolution 687 and Resolution 715.

Rwanda's chief delegate said that the Iraqi troop movements toward Kuwait have aroused the concern of his government. He urges Iraq to recognize UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 833 on border demarcation.

Russia's envoy said: Resolving the recent crisis was at the top of the Russian diplomacy's topics of interest. Iraq is yet to recognize the sovereignty of Kuwait and should continue cooperation with the United Nations.

The events of recent days show the seriousness of the failure to resolve the results of Iraq's entry into Kuwait. Instructed by President Yeltsin, Minister Kozyrev met with the Iraqi leadership to prevent any escalation in the crisis and to resume diplomatic efforts.

As a result, Iraq affirmed that it has withdrawn its troops. It is important to note the joint statement—the Baghdad statement—which expresses Iraq's readiness to recognize Kuwait's sovereignty and border in accordance with Resolution 833.

Therefore, the Russian delegate proposed waiting until Minister Kozyrev arrives in New York.

He said: We regret that the UN Security Council was in a hurry to issue the resolution without waiting. It should be noted that those who proposed the resolution have approved our proposals. It should be noted that this resolution does not authorize any military measure. Therefore, it [Russia] supports this resolution. I have to add that King Fahd and Shaykh al-Sabah implored Russia to maintain the unity of the Security Council.

The French envoy said the French delegation voted in favor of the resolution to preempt any menacing or

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provocative measure in the future and in order to cooperate with the United Nations and the Special Commission.

The Czech envoy said that his country stresses the need to recognize the sovereignty of Kuwait and to maintain Iraq's territorial integrity.

The Omani ambassador said that this resolution is intended to boost security and peace in the region. He welcomed Iraq's readiness to recognize Kuwait and pledged to work with friends in order to end the suffering of the Iraqi people under the blockade.

The Spanish ambassador said the resolution does not prevent Iraq from deploying its troops in the south. Paragraph 4, he added, should be read as part of Paragraph 3. Therefore, Iraq can deploy its troops around al-Basrah, for example, which is the second city in Iraq.

The Chinese ambassador has expressed concern about tension in the Gulf. He said that China has noted the start of the Iraqi Government's withdrawal of its troops. He added that China urges all parties to exercise self-restraint, to seek a peaceful solution, and to abide by the Security Council resolutions.

The Pakistani envoy highly regarded the efforts of the Russian Minister Kozyrev to establish new relations between Iraq and Kuwait.

The Russian foreign minister will hold consultations with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in New York on Monday. Kozyrev will then attend an official Security Council session, during which he will brief the Council on the outcome of his visit to Iraq and Kuwait. Deputy Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz will participate in the Security Council session on Monday.

'Relatively Positive Points' Seen in Resolution

NC1710064894 Paris AFP in English 0641 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 17 (AFP)—The official Iraqi daily AL-JUMHURIYAH on Monday [17 October] said a UN Security Council resolution barring Baghdad from deploying Republican Guard units in southern Iraq includes "some relatively positive points."

It is the first time since the Gulf crisis erupted in August 1990 that Iraq reacted positively to a UN resolution concerning Baghdad.

The UN Security Council approved a resolution late Saturday barring Iraq from deploying its elite Republican guards in southern Iraq and from reinforcing its military capacity on the Kuwaiti border.

'Aziz Leaves for New York, To Hold Talks at UN

JN1610175494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An authoritative Jordanian source has said that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz left for New York via Amman today to pursue the lifting of the international sanctions imposed on his country for the past four years. 'Aziz' visit to the United Nations comes following the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution No. 949.

The same source said that the Iraqi official did not hold talks with any Jordanian officials during his passage through Amman, adding that a Jordanian military helicopter carried 'Aziz directly from the Iraqi border, 300 km east of Amman, to the Queen Alia International Airport where he took a New York-bound plane.

Last Tuesday, King Husayn directed strongly-worded criticism at the Iraqi leadership and said that he advised Iraqi President Saddam Husayn not to make the same mistake he committed in 1990 when his forces invaded the emirate of Kuwait. The advice was conveyed to the Iraqi president by 'Aziz who stopped over in Amman on his way back home from New York on 8 October. [passage omitted]

Kozyrev To Address UN on Outcome of Baghdad Visit

JN1610200594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] New York—the United Nations, 16 Oct (INA)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will explain to the UN Security Council [UNSC] at 1100 tomorrow, Monday, 2000 Iraq time, the outcome of his visit to Baghdad.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who arrived in New York this evening, is also scheduled to take part in the UNSC session tomorrow.

According to the joint Iraqi-Russian statement, Russia pledged to support efforts to set an official date for the beginning of the operation of the long-term monitoring system to ensure the passage of a UNSC resolution providing for the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which calls for the complete revocation of the oil embargo and financial sanctions clamped on Iraq, without any fresh conditions attached.

According to the joint statement signed with Iraq, Russia also reiterated its support for efforts to revoke other sanctions in light of the progress Iraq makes toward the implementation of the relevant UNSC resolutions.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is scheduled to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who will come to New York especially for this meeting, tomorrow before he attends the UNSC session.

In a statement in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia before departing for New York today, Kozyrev said that he hopes to reach an identity of views with the United States on Iraq. He added that he will explain all the issues that the United States will raise with regard to his Iraqi mission in a spirit of coordination and cooperation.

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Further Reportage on Kozyrev 14 Oct News Conference

JN1410195894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's envoy, has said that the decision made by President Saddam Husayn in order to resolve the current crisis is a brave political decision that will enhance the prospects for regional stability.

In a news conference today with correspondents from Arab and foreign television and radio networks, news agencies, the press, and the Iraqi News Agency, Kozyrev said that yesterday's joint statement by Iraq and Russia will pave the way for building good, neighborly relations between all countries in the region. He noted that such relations are the guarantee for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all regional states, including Kuwait and Iraq.

He said that on this basis and on the same bases that have been agreed on in the joint statement, Russia will bolster its relations with Iraq, noting that this is Russia's guarantee for Iraq to resolve the current crisis and restore regional stability.

The Russian foreign minister said that Iraq is an important state in the region with a history that dates back thousands of years and will continue for thousands of years to come.

He noted that he achieved a breakthrough, during this visit, adding that we have been moving in the right direction.

Asked about the readiness of the Security Council members, including the United States, to discuss the lifting of the sanctions after six months, Kozyrev said: The council will act in accordance with its resolutions and the compliance with these resolutions. He added: If the provisions of these resolutions are implemented the council should lift the sanctions and welcome the compliance with its resolutions.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad at noon today following a two-day visit.

President Saddam Husayn had received Kozyrev yesterday evening. They discussed, during the meeting, the situation in the Gulf and the status of relations between Iraq and Russia. A joint statement was issued following the meeting.

Russian UN Envoy Cited on Recognition Decision

JN1410143394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Vasily Sidorov, Russia's charge d'affaires at the United Nations, has stressed that Baghdad's announcement is an important and decisive development that used to be demanded by the UN Security Council members whenever the link between the embargo and the recognition of Kuwait and its borders, as stipulated in Resolution 833, was discussed.

He said that Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton have exchanged views on this subject several times. Several telephone conversations in this regard have also been held between Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Christopher, he said.

The Russian charge d'affaires added: Our position is that the test period for the monitoring regime should be six months. Some other UN Security Council members have the same position and we must discuss the subject in details. He said: The deal includes lifting the oil embargo as well as other forms of the embargo.

Cited on 'Amendments' to U.S. Plan

JN1510201194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Vasiliy Sidorov, Russian charge d'affaires at the United Nations, has announced that he has amendments to the U.S. draft resolution submitted to the Security Council. He said that if the Security Council's member states accept Russia's amendments, there will be no objection to putting the resolution to a vote today, Saturday.

The Russian charge d'affaires refused to clarify to the journalists the nature of the amendments, and said: I should first present them to the Security Council's member states. He stressed: We prefer that the voting be postponed until Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev arrives in New York tomorrow.

Diplomatic sources in New York, including the New Zealand's ambassador, have said that many Security Council member states feel that it will be difficult to accept paragraph 5 of the U.S. draft resolution demanding that Iraq inform the UN secretary general 15 days before any military movements in southern Iraq. These sources asserted that Russia, France, China, and Spain have asked for this paragraph to be completely omitted.

Reaction to Decision on Kuwaiti Recognition Reported

JN1410141994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. television network CNN has reported that Baghdad's announcement yesterday that it is prepared to resolve the issue of recognizing Kuwait's sovereignty and borders in accordance with Resolution 833 has astonished the UN Security Council members.

The U.S. State Department yesterday refused to comment on the Iraqi-Russian statement and said it is studying the details of that statement. However, a U.S. diplomat, who asked to remain anonymous, stated at the

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United Nations that he is doubtful about this statement. A White House official said the statement was not sufficient.

As for Britain, the British envoy to the United Nations said: If Iraq wishes to take all the necessary measures related to this recognition, then this will be a new and important development and it must be official and approved by the highest level, meaning the Revolution Command Council and the National Assembly.

The French envoy said Baghdad's statement seems to introduce a new and important element into the situation and any element that will help prevent a confrontation is considered appropriate.

Kuwait's envoy said: If the move to recognize Kuwait and the borders is clear, then this will be an encouraging step towards ending the crisis in a satisfactory way. But, we have to wait until the UN secretary general and the UN Security Council president receive the specific Iraqi position.

Joint Statement Said To Show Concern for Peace

JN1510114694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1028 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has stated that the Iraqi-Russian joint statement reflects Iraq's immense concern to preserve peace and security in the region on stable conditions of cooperation, trust, and understanding.

In an editorial today, the paper says that this concern, which stems from a high sense of national and pan-Arab responsibility, is a basic part of a principled policy known to everyone and respected and appreciated by others.

The paper stressed that this clear Iraqi policy will ensure that the people of the region will remain away from the threat of foreign intervention, and that they will have a guaranteed future and the opportunity for progress and development.

AL-'IRAQ pointed out that the Iraqi leadership wanted to strip the aggressors of all the covers behind which they tried to hide in order to prolong the unjust blockade.

The paper alluded in particular to Baghdad's cooperation with the UN Security Council and its Special Commission despite the well-known nature of the Council's resolutions against Iraq. The paper considered the statement which was issued following Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev's talks in Iraq, as a qualitative step in relations between Baghdad and Moscow, confirming the correct Iraqi political and diplomatic stand in foiling a new chapter of U.S. aggression and refuting the U.S. Administration's lies and allegations.

RCC Official Receives Russian Envoy's Credentials

JN1510142794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] On behalf of President leader Saddam Husayn, 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], today received the credentials of (Nikolay Katzov), the new Russian ambassador accredited to Iraq.

Attending the credentials reception ceremony were Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, minister of finance and acting foreign minister, and the director general of the RCC vice chairman's office.

Editor Sees 'New Phase' of International Relations

JN1510112394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0847 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—An Iraqi political writer has said that the anti-Iraq international alliance has practically become old history last Thursday [13 October] night after the Iraqi-Russian statement was issued.

In another article in the series "Standpoint—Big Questions on the Blockade," Salah al-Mukhtar, AL-JUMHURIYAH chief editor, said that a new phase of international relations has begun, based on the premise that each international power is now working first and foremost in accordance with its interests and convictions and not under U.S. pressure. Al-Mukhtar described this change as an international transformation in Iraq's favor.

Al-Mukhtar described Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev's Baghdad visit as the most important change in Russian policy toward Iraq since 1991.

Al-Mukhtar noted that the historic agreement reached by Russia and Iraq will have a great effect on upcoming developments based on Iraq's implementing the remainder of the UN Security Council resolutions in exchange for a Russian position based on lifting the economic embargo after a trial period of six months ending next April.

Al-Mukhtar voiced his opinion that the Russian move not only revived the hope of restoring the Iraqi-Russian relations to their former friendship but served as an indicator that Russia is determined to end the period during which it lost its effective international role.

Al-Mukhtar said that Russia quickly realized the U.S. scheme of creating a new crisis in the Gulf to serve internal and external aims, something that prompted Moscow to move to defuse the crisis, exactly the opposite of the U.S. position.

On the French stand, AL-JUMHURIYAH chief editor alluded to the results of the French cabinet meeting

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which was chaired by President Mitterrand personally. The meeting came out with a stand affirming that the French patience toward blackmail and arrogance had reached a very critical point. The meeting also recalled statements by the French ministers of defense and foreign affairs who asserted that Iraq did not violate the UN Security Council resolutions by moving its forces within its national territory. France also rejected Washington's proposal to establish a ground exclusion zone in southern Iraq, thus causing the U.S. plans in the Gulf to totter and fall.

Al-Mukhtar also alluded to the rejection by the closest U.S. ally, Britain, of the idea of a ground exclusion zone and to the position of Turkey which refuses to allow using its territory for attacking Iraq.

Al-Mukhtar stated that defusing the crisis and the emergence of a world consensus against the U.S. policy of escalation, in addition to the rejection of the U.S. principle of not rewarding Iraq for its cooperation with the United Nations by lifting the economic embargo, placed Clinton in a tight corner, forcing him to retreat and admit that the crisis was about to be defused, and to withdraw his project of creating another exclusion zone in southern Iraq.

Al-Mukhtar expects that Washington will henceforth face complicated and serious problems if it continues its anti-Iraq policy.

Concluding his article, the Iraqi political writer wondered: Will Washington realize that there can be no peace, stability, progress, development, and guarantees for the legitimate interests of the outside powers unless there is a strong Iraq that plays an independent and basic role in a most dangerous and important spot in the world?

French Minister's Statements on Gulf Crisis Cited

JN1610203594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 16 Oct (INA)—French Minister of State for Defense Francois Leotard said today that the world has recently seen several moves; chief among which are the withdrawal of Iraqi troops to their previous positions and the Iraqi-Russian statement. He added that if developments continue to move in this direction, the crisis will be heading toward positive solutions.

Responding to a question on whether the announcements made by Iraq are enough to lift the sanctions, particularly since the Americans have said that the sanctions will remain in place, the French minister of state for defense said: Things must be examined in light of what Iraq is required to do. First, it was required to accept the dismantlement of its weapons of mass destruction, and to subscribe to a monitoring system. This has been achieved, as stated in Ekeus' report. Iraq was also required to recognize Kuwait. It seems that the situation is improving. Given all this, it is possible to examine the issue of lifting the Iraqi sanctions.

The French minister of state for defense ruled out the possibility of a military strike or a preemptive attack against Iraq. He added that the French position on this issue is very clear, and that it has remained unchanged.

National Assembly Speaker Calls For Session

JN1610122994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1150 GMT 16 Oct 94

[Announcement by National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been decided to ask members of the National Assembly to be present at the National Assembly at 1700 on 17 October 1994, corresponding to 12 Jumada al-Awwal 1415 Hegira. Greetings.

[Signed] Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly

Saddam Chairs Joint RCC-Ba'th Party Command Meeting

JN1510113794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has presided over a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Forces Ordered To Return to Former Positions

JN1510102694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1001 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information, has said that the Iraqi force, about whose location in the south the Americans stirred such an uproar, had completed movement to rear positions on Wednesday [12 October].

In a statement to INA today, the minister said: Having completed that move, it is now time that the force be returned to its former positions in accordance with the requirements of the exercise plan. He said orders have been issued to this effect.

Following is the text of the statement:

The Iraqi force, about whose location in the south the Americans stirred such a tendentious uproar, had completed its movement to rear positions at 2100 on 12 October 1994. Having completed that move, it is now time that the force be returned to its former positions in accordance with the requirements of the exercise and operations plan. Orders have been issued to this effect.

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The minister said that the process of moving to the former positions will be completed within several days.

NPPF Notes Increasing Support for Regime's Positions

JN1510150294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, secretary general of the National Progressive and Patriotic Front [NPPF], has asserted that the increasing world support for Iraq's policy and legitimate endeavors to end its people's suffering, along with the support for the Iraqi position by the majority of the UN Security Council member states, has confirmed that Iraq, under President struggler Saddam Husayn, has managed to foil the imperialist-Zionist scheme led by the United States. This scheme aimed to aggravate the situation and fabricate a crisis in order to continue the unfair blockade imposed on the Iraqi people, he added.

Chairing an NPPF meeting, 'Abd-al-Ghafur said the world's political parties and forces, as well as its national circles, should assume their responsibilities toward the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the continued unfair blockade. They should also firmly stand against the U.S. attempts to continue the blockade and impose its hegemony on the Security Council to achieve the tendentious objectives that have nothing to do with the United Nations or its resolutions.

He added that the Iraqis' support for the wise historic leadership of President struggler Saddam Husayn, as well as the endurance and steadfastness of our proud people, will foil the intentions of the aggressors. These aggressors intend to undermine Iraq's sovereignty, security, and national unity, he said.

Hammadi: Ready to Discuss 'Anything' With Kuwait

AU1710112494 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 17 Oct 94 p 173

[Interview with Culture and Information Minister Yusif Hammadi by an unidentified reporter; place and date not given: "We Do Not Deny Anything"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Why did Iraq trigger a new Gulf crisis with its troop deployment?

[Hammadi] We are not the ones who are starting another war. It is the enemies of Iraq who are doing that.

[DER SPIEGEL] The United States and the Arab Gulf states considered the massing of Iraqi troops at the border with Kuwait a sign for a renewed invasion of Kuwait.

[Hammadi] Every expert knows that the transfer of two Iraqi divisions to the south of our republic does not pose a threat to Kuwait or any other neighboring state.

[DER SPIEGEL] If tens of thousands of Iraqi elite soldiers move toward Kuwait with tanks and artillery, Kuwait must again feel its existence threatened. Why did Baghdad's tanks move toward the Kuwaiti border?

[Hammadi] Such troop movements are quite normal and have taken place in the past without causing a stir. Moreover, we did not establish a new camp but used an old base that we regularly include in our maneuver plannings. It is closer to Basra than to the Kuwaiti border.

[DER SPIEGEL] Yet you would be in a position to invade little Kuwait in no time.

[Hammadi] If you are interested in sand-table exercises, just go ahead. I would like to tell you the following: Whereas 500,000 men were involved in the preparations for the operation in Kuwait in 1990, fewer than 100,000 participated in the most recent troop maneuvers in the south.

In addition, Iraq is not allowed to use planes south of the 32nd parallel. And finally Kuwait is not unprepared. U.S. troops with efficient weapons systems can intervene any time, not to mention the expensive protecting wall that Kuwait has built.

[DER SPIEGEL] After the Iraqi troop deployment, the drastic economic sanctions against your country will certainly not be eased.

[Hammadi] Our oil will soon flow again. Most Arab countries, including Iran, against whom we waged a war for eight years, and even France, which participated actively in the military alliance against Iraq, are criticizing the U.S. policy vis-a-vis Iraq. The Russians, the Chinese, the Turks, and many others are calling for the lifting of the inhuman sanctions.

[DER SPIEGEL] So long as Iraq does not fulfill the UN conditions, the sanctions will continue.

[Hammadi] We do not deny the United Nations anything. Yet the United States is behind the campaign that is designed to cause a famine in Iraq. Over 1 million Iraqis have already died of starvation or because of the acute shortage of medicine. The United States hopes to create an untenable situation and to topple the Iraqi Government.

[DER SPIEGEL] The sanctions might be lifted if Baghdad officially recognizes the state of Kuwait.

[Hammadi] This is an unfounded demand. We have already done so. Yet we do not agree to the border that was drawn by the United States with military force. We are ready to discuss anything with Kuwait that prevents goodneighborly relations.

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Hammadi on Clinton Policy, Ties With Russia, France

BR1410140194 Paris LE FIGARO in French 14 Oct 94 p 3

[Report on interview with Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi by Claude Lorieux in Baghdad on 13 October: "Iraq: Diplomacy in Action"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Warren Christopher went to Kuwait, while Andrey Kozyrev went to Baghdad, but the U.S. and Russian foreign ministers did not meet face to face on either side of the borderline. The former left the emirate as the latter arrived yesterday on the first Russian aircraft to land at Baghdad international airport since 2 August 1990, the date of the invasion of Kuwait.

The Russian foreign minister's return to the scene in a country whose main ally during the Iraq-Iran war was the USSR is something of an event in post-Gulf War history.

While the United States continues to send reinforcements in the form of manpower and equipment to Kuwait, Russia is venturing to perform the risky role of mediator. Next Andrey Kozyrev plans to visit Kuwait, a country which in the past managed to maintain a balance between Moscow and the White House.

"The Russians have a plan for resolving the crisis. Their demarche is a very serious one," Iraqi Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi told LE FIGARO yesterday.

On his return to the United Nations on Monday (17 October), the Russian minister will find on his desk the latest draft resolution submitted by the United States with the support of Britain and France: The Security Council will forbid Baghdad to deploy more troops south of Basra than before the latest crisis. Iraq would have to limit itself to 30,000 troops not belonging to the Republican Guard (the elite unit).

"That would only complicate matters," according to Mr. Hammadi, who recalled Baghdad's unchanging stance: "By moving our troops, we are not violating any Security Council resolution. French Defense Minister Leotard acknowledged this Wednesday [12 October]." He added: "The United States has gotten itself stuck in a hornet's nest. It is seeking a way out of it."

UN envoy Rold Ekeus said in New York Wednesday that Iraq no longer had any weapons of mass destruction and that a six-month verification period would be enough. Would such a statement not be likely to facilitate a lifting of sanctions?

The Iraqi minister replied: "Mr. Ekeus often changes his mind. Moreover, he did not confirm this recommendation in writing in his report to the Security Council." He went on: "France and Russia agree to a period of six months, but they advised us to recognize Kuwait and the inviolability of the border. That is impossible until the United States and Britain guarantee us an end to the embargo."

What if the Security Council maintains the sanctions? Baghdad has threatened to burn its bridges with the UN disarmament experts. Mr. Hammadi was more cautious: "We did not say that we would demand that the experts leave the country. All I can tell you is that we will examine the situation."

Tragic Situation

"I think," the minister went on, "that the United States will use the strength that it has concentrated in the Gulf to put pressure on us. That will not achieve anything. We are in a good juridical and political position. In 1990 we needed 500,000 men to invade Kuwait. How could we start again this year with a mere 45,000 men?"

But if not an invasion, why not a "punitive incursion?" "If that were the case, would it justify Washington's responding with such a concentration of strength and with such propaganda overkill?" Mr. Hammadi replied.

Events prompted Washington to consider establishing another "terrestrial military exclusion zone" in southern Iraq. Moscow and Paris persuaded the Americans to shelve the plan. The Iraqi minister observed: "Such a zone would have caused a vacuum in the southern region. Basra is only 24 km from the Iranian border. In spring 1991, after the cease-fire, 150,000 saboteurs crossed that border. The Iranian Army includes two units of soldiers of Iraqi origins, including the Bader force. They were trained by the revolutionary guards."

What would happen if further unrest were to occur in the south, which is inhabited by Shiite Muslims? "We could not transport troops there immediately. We would have to await a go-ahead from the United Nations. Our troops would arrive too late. This, specially if the Iranians support the agitation. Even now saboteurs sometimes still enter via Al Kut, Amara, Basra, and the Huwayzah marshes. So the U.S. proposal is very dangerous. We reject it absolutely."

Has the crisis of the past five days not delayed the lifting of sanctions? The minister believes the opposite: "The international community is now convinced that the time has come to lift sanctions for the good reason that Iraq has partly—we believe totally—implemented the UN resolutions. The situation is tragic. In five years, since 1990, the mortality rate among children aged under five has multiplied seven times, according to UNICEF."

Hamid Yusuf Hammadi refuses to believe that the large-scale maneuvers of the Republican Guard have damaged relations between Baghdad and such "friendly countries" as Russia and France. He expressed regret that their leaders "have heeded Madeleine Albright, the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, rather than the Iraqi Government."

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As for President Clinton, "he has frequently tried to avoid resembling Mr. Bush, but he is surrounded by advisers who are irritated and frustrated because they have not achieved their objective—to destabilize the Iraqi regime."

Jordanian Statement on Military Movements Noted

JN1610112994 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 10 Oct 94 p 3

[BABIL headline: "Jordanian Spokesman's Statement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An official spokesman has said that the Jordanian leadership is monitoring, with all interest and concern, the recent developments in the region regarding the Iraqi military movements toward the south, as propagated by the United States, and the possibility of exacerbation.

Minister Receives Jordanian Land Transport Group

JN1610163094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA)—Minister of Transport and Communications Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad has met with a delegation of the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Corporation headed by 'Awad al-Tall, under secretary of the Jordanian Ministry of Transportation and chairman of the corporation's Board of Directors.

During the meeting, the minister and the delegation reviewed the accomplishments the corporation has achieved since its inception, as well as the support the Iraqi Ministry of Transport and Communications has been extending to the corporation to enable it to promote its activities; namely, the transportation of goods between Iraq and Jordan.

Egypt Rejects U.S. Request To Join Coalition

JN1610052494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Oct 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo press sources said yesterday that the Egyptian leadership recently refused to fulfill a request by the U.S. Administration to participate in the coalition forces mobilized by Washington against Iraq for internal Egyptian reasons; namely, the Egyptian people's sympathy with Iraq.

PLO's Qaddumi Urges Barring Military Action

JN1510154394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 15 Oct (INA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political department, has called on the international community not to allow the United States to take any military action against Iraq.

In a statement to a correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in Tunis today, he said that there were still many diplomatic and peaceful solutions open to the crisis the U.S. Administration has fabricated.

He described the Iraqi position, as stated in the Iraqi-Russian joint statement on Kuwait, as a major positive step toward bringing about peace and stability and ending all differences in the Gulf region.

He asserted that Iraq's positive stand on all of the international resolutions should be viewed positively by the UN Security Council in order to ease the sanctions that have been imposed on Iraq for more than four years now.

Qaddumi added that it was time to secure inter-Arab reconciliation and that the Arab League should play its role in achieving reconciliation and normalizing inter-Arab relations.

Doctor on Saddam's Orders To Mutilate Deserters

LD1710130194 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1000 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the united opposition in Iraq, President Saddam Husayn's army is in a desperate state, and an increasing number of soldiers are trying to desert. In order to halt this, Saddam has ordered that anyone caught deserting will have an ear cut off. Leena Reikko is in northern Iraq with an eyewitness.

[Begin recording] [Reikko] A few weeks ago a young doctor fled from an Iraqi military hospital to Kurd-controlled northern Iraq because he did not want to obey the order to use his medical skills to punish deserters. He said the mutilation order was given at the beginning of September, and deserters were then brought from prisons to hospitals daily.

[Unidentified man, in English] They bring them, and they are also [words indistinct] disease, like scabies, a dermatological disease. So they bring them to us, and we are here as special committees, special amputation committees. (?They are arranged) by an order from the higher authorities; they arrange them and [word indistinct] orders. Everyone has his order, okay, either amputating the ears or hands from the (?wrist) joint or a foot from the ankle.

[Reikko] They were brought to the hospital where they had been organized, by order of the highest authorities, into special amputation committees. Everyone received his own orders, either to cut off an ear, or amputate a hand or foot, says the 30-year-old doctor, with distaste. He says that one way of marking a deserter is to tattoo a cross on the soldier's forehead. The doctor says that he counted nearly 400 cases of mutilation during one week in his own hospital. A first timer will lose an ear; another desertion attempt will lead to harsher punishment. The doctor says that the mutilation takes place under local

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anaesthesia, and doctors have been banned, under threat of punishment, from providing aftercare for the bleeding and festering wounds.

According to the united opposition, that is, the Iraqi National Congress, INC, the number of deserters is growing all the time. One of the INC's military advisers, with headquarters here in the town of Salah al-Din in Iraqi Kurdistan, says, for instance, that during one single day he heard of the arrival of nearly 100 war deserters in the area liberated by the Kurds. INC representatives who have arrived here in Salah al-Din from southern Iraq report that the soldiers in the south are fleeing to the marshlands or to Iran.

At the beginning of October, President Saddam Husayn halved the number of food coupons to be given to civilians. According to the opposition, this was to feed the starving soldiers. The opposition claims that even the northern Kurd rebels, the Peshmarga, are feeding the Iraqi soldiers on the other side of the frontline who have been abandoned to their fate. This is Leena Reikko in Salah al-Din in Iraqi Kurdistan. [end recording]

Labor Minister Discusses Aid With WFP Official

JN1610161094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA)—Labor and Social Affairs Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim met today with Francisco Rocky Castro [name as transliterated], executive director of the World Food Program [WFP] in Iraq [title as received].

During the meeting, they discussed the aspects of cooperation between Iraq and the WFP, and the measures the WFP could take to contribute toward easing the suffering of the Iraqi people caused by the sharp food shortages created by the continued sanctions.

Francisco Rocky Castro asserted that the WFP will proceed with its plans to help Iraq cope with the extraordinary circumstances it is experiencing due to the continued sanctions.

Red Cross Official on 'Critical' Medicine Crisis

JN1610205994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1937 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA)—Anthony Roland Marion, regional representative of the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, has said that Iraq is suffering from an acute shortage of medicine, medical materials and equipment, and foodstuffs as a result of the continuation of the blockade against it.

In a statement to INA, Marion, an Australian national, who is currently on a visit to Iraq at the head of a delegation from the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, described the medical situation in Iraq as very critical. He said that medicines and medical equipment are not only scarce, but do not exist.

He added that he and the delegation accompanying him learned about the great suffering of the Iraqi people by visiting two children's hospitals in Baghdad. He said that he met with a number of doctors and nurses who explained to him their suffering and the difficulties they face in treating patients at hospitals due to the shortage of medicines and medical materials. He said that he will convey the Iraqi people's suffering to the world humanitarian organizations and federations in order to urge them to hasten to extend aid to them.

Anthony Roland Marion spoke about the contribution of the league, which has its headquarters in Amman, toward alleviating the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the continuation of the unjust blockade clamped on them.

Writer: All Iraqi People 'Republican Guards'

JN1610203194 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 13 Oct 94 p 1

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "The Republican Guards Are the Symbol of Iraq's Honor"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Those who heard the hysterical statements made by the U.S. war criminals over the past few days will not be astonished for one simple reason; namely, that we see their hideous crimes everyday embodied by the thousands of Iraqis who die, and the other millions who are being tortured by the U.S. blockade on Iraq.

The criminals were not satisfied with the number of Iraqi victims who have thus far fallen. The spirit of the crime that haunted them has urged them to wish that history could be turned back to the 1991 aggression so they could kill all of the Iraqi Army personnel.

They have expressed regret because they did not annihilate all of the Iraqis at the time. While blood drips from their mouths, they are now moving to instigate the world to kill all the Iraqis. They did not stop their attempts to annihilate all the Iraqis during the 30 state aggression because of humanitarian reasons—for all the U.S. decisionmakers are criminals, murderers, and very sick—the killing stopped when the heroic Republican Guards forces confronted the AIDS carriers in the southern Iraq battles and presented them with the choice of extermination or withdrawal.

We have just on thing to tell them: All the Iraqi people are Republican Guards waiting for orders from their great leader Saddam Husayn.

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Reportage on Conclusion of Wachsman Abduction Case

Rumors on Ultimatum's Delay Reported

TA1410164194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A Palestinian Authority [PA] source believes that the ultimatum presented by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] concerning the abducted soldier could be postponed if Israel were prepared to negotiate with the abductors. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that rumors have spread in the Gaza Strip that Hamas has agreed to put off the ultimatum by 24 hours. Yasir 'Arafat returned to Gaza from Egypt this afternoon.

Meanwhile, our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that several senior opposition figures have relayed a message to the prime minister saying that if a military option is not possible before the ultimatum is up, negotiations should be held with Hamas. The figures stressed that this is their personal position and has nothing to do with the position of their parties.

Earlier, our political correspondent reported that senior sources involved in the handling of Nahshon Wachsman's kidnapping favor negotiations to secure the release of the kidnapped soldier.

The prime minister's media adviser has clarified that Israeli security elements are in contact with the PA in Gaza as part of the efforts to bring about the release of Nahshon Wachsman. Israel continues to hold the PA and Yasir 'Arafat responsible for Nahshon Wachsman's well-being and for his safe return to Israel at once.

24-Hour Extension Announced

TA1410180894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A short time ago, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] informed Knesset Member [MK] Talib al-Sani', who is in Gaza, that it has extended the ultimatum regarding abducted soldier Nahshon Wachsman by 24 hours. This has not been confirmed by any other source. This is reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 14 October adds that according to Umm al-Fahm Mayor Ra'id Salah, the ultimatum was extended "in response to the request of the Islamic Movement in Israel and Shaykh Ahmad Yasin."]

Earlier, MK al-Sani' reported that he had relayed to Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, a message from the Prime Minister's Office whereby the government would be willing to examine the kidnappers' demands if Hamas first issues an official announcement postponing the ultimatum, which is scheduled to expire in one hour.

'No Negotiations' Principle Observed

TA1410201194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 2000 GMT 14 Oct 94

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[FBIS Translated Text] As before, we are restrained by the censors. There are things we know, but we are not allowed to publicize them. What I can say now without violating the censorship rules we have been asked to observe is that, first of all, the Israeli Government, the prime minister, and the security forces have observed the principle that there are to be no negotiations with a terrorist organization and that there will be no surrender to its terms. Whatever they did was done in a bid to try to resolve this problem.

The other thing we may say at this time is that this is not a happy evening. Unfortunately, we know that even now. In fact, this affair is about to wind up, and I assume this is the reason the prime minister is convening a news conference at 2300 [2100 GMT].

Yet even if the affair itself has ended, its ramifications are far from over, and I assume they will be discussed for a long time to come. There will probably be various operational aftermaths and conclusions that will have to be decided.

Unsuccessful Rescue Attempt Reported

NC1410211894 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Oct 94

[Report by Mahir Shalabi in Jerusalem]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli special forces have carried out an unsuccessful attempt to break into a location in the village of Bi'r Nibala north of Jerusalem where the Israeli soldier Nahshon Wachsman was being held. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin personally supervised the operation. The operation led to the death of the kidnapped soldier in addition to a sergeant from the special unit that carried out the raid. Eight other Israeli military personnel were injured in the attack. Three members of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions were killed and a fourth was arrested.

It should be noted that the attempted rescue operation was carried out after the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, agreed to extend the deadline for executing the abducted soldier by 24 hours.

Political observers believe that the operation represents a crushing failure for Yitzhaq Rabin's government and a victory for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

Rabin, Baraq Hold News Conference

TA1410220194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2105 GMT 14 Oct 94

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv—live]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [Rabin] At the outset of my remarks, I would like to send my condolences to the Wachsman family for the murder in cold blood of their son, Nahshon Wachsman, by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] murderers. I would like to share in the grief of the family of an officer in an elite unit, whose name I cannot disclose at the moment because efforts are now under way to locate his relatives. I would like to wish a speedy recovery to all the wounded.

I, in my capacity as prime minister and defense minister, bear responsibility for the decision on the operation conducted this evening against the terrorists who kidnapped the late Nahshon Wachsman and took him hostage. The policy of the current government is to operate on two parallel tracks in everything pertaining to the situation here: to promote peace on one hand, and to fight terror—in particular terror by Palestinians and Lebanese, which is the main terror today, a terror whose purpose is to kill Israelis in a bid to harm and terminate the peace process between us and the Palestinians and between us and the Lebanese—to the bitter end on the other.

The kidnapping of the late Nahshon Wachsman falls within the category of attacks for bargaining purposes. We have experienced such attacks all along the way, almost since the time the State of Israel was founded. The purpose is to capture an Israeli, especially a soldier, in order to bring about the release of numerous terrorists and murderers. This holds especially true with regard to the kidnapping of the late Nahshon Wachsman by Hamas in order to secure the release of the murderers belonging to this organization and their like, who want to kill Israelis and kill the peace.

The policy I adopted with regard to terror attacks for bargaining purposes—as a military man, as prime minister, as defense minister, and as prime minister and defense minister—is as follows: Any time it is possible to carry out a military operation, particularly within the boundaries of the state or in areas under its control, preference should be given to a military operation rather than to negotiations, give-and-take, and the release of murderous prisoners and terrorists. By the same token, when a military operation was impossible, I never considered it to be my moral right. This was the case regarding the hostages aboard the Air France plane hijacked to Entebbe, the hostages captured in Tel Aviv's Savoy Hotel, the hostages captured in Kibbutz Shamir; I am talking about periods when I served as prime minister. We decided then on a military operation. We paid with casualties. In the Savoy Hotel alone, 10 people were killed: seven hostages and three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. I will not go into details.

Even in the case of the late Nahshon Wachsman's kidnapping, the policy was clear: Until this morning, Nahshon Wachsman was in the Gaza Strip, and that is why we demanded of the Palestinian Authority [PA] that it do what we are prepared to do when talking about a terror attack for bargaining purposes within the boundaries of the State of Israel and the areas under Israel's control or when the IDF is capable of conducting a rescue operation.

This morning, when the first reports were received and it first transpired that the late Nahshon Wachsman is in a house in Bi'r Nabala, near Ramallah, I could not conceive that we would not do what I believe the State of Israel in its war against terror must do, what we actually demanded of the PA and of 'Arafat, in his capacity as its chairman, during the past week when the reports were that Wachsman is in the Gaza Strip.

Therefore, this is part of a policy of fighting terror to the bitter end. Moreover, you will probably wonder why I made demands of the PA for five or six days. Indeed, those were the reports in our possession. Consequently, we insisted on our demand concerning the safety, well-being, and safe return home of Nahshon Wachsman. This morning, however, when it transpired from a report that Nahshon was not in the Gaza Strip—a report that was verified later in the day—I could not conceive of not fulfilling our responsibility, seeing that the area in question is under our control.

Nevertheless, I would like to say that last night I sent a representative to a very senior PA official to clarify our position in accordance with the information in our possession. In the talk with that senior official, the notion or possibility of exchanging Shaykh Ahmad Yasin for Wachsman was raised. The envoy came back to me for instructions. I told him: If that very senior PA figure comes forth with a proposal, we will very seriously examine it. I looked into that option today between 1800 and 1900 [1600 and 1700 GMT], and I was told that it was still nonexistent. One may ask: Did Hamas postpone the ultimatum? Our policy in principle is that when dealing with an attack for bargaining purposes or with the capture of a hostage or hostages within the boundaries of the State of Israel or in an area under our control, it is our duty not to give in to the dictates of terror but to operate against it. Our grief and pain notwithstanding, everybody—people who have served in the Army and who are knowledgeable about security matters—knows that an operation to rescue hostages is dangerous and that we suffer fatalities in almost every rescue operation. Yet such operations created the impression that as long as the IDF can conduct a rescue operation, we will fight terror and not give in to it.

Until 1800-1900 this evening, I checked whether the ultimatum had been extended, not just from the point of view of entering negotiations but also from the operational point of view—that is, if we had more time, we could obtain another small piece of information. However, in the absence of a clear announcement—and we checked it through several channels—I was faced with the dilemma: If we did not carry out the operation by 2100 [1900 GMT] and Wachsman is murdered, would I be able to tell myself that we had done everything—not

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just for Wachsman and his family but also in terms of the government policy? The possibility of trading Wachsman for Shaykh Ahmad Yasin existed, but we received no answer; such a possibility was not raised in any concrete manner. Therefore, I approved the operation and ordered it to proceed.

It hurts, I know. I know the war against terror carries a price. Some IDF soldiers are hurt in the fight against terror. Israeli citizens have become targets of terrorist assassins. Since the signing of the Declaration of Principles [DOP], at least 90 percent, if not more, of the acts of terror have been perpetrated by opponents of the agreements. This is not just terror for the sake of terror, but terror for political purposes. Therefore, those who want to promote peace must fight the murderous and extremist Islamic terror of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and of course, of the rejectionist organizations, because they are murderers and opponents of peace.

By the same token, you will probably wonder why we made demands of 'Arafat. I would like to draw a distinction: In the case of the late Nahshon Wachsman's kidnapping, we—as well as the Palestinians—had information that he was in the Gaza Strip. I considered it justified and my right to demand of them that they exercise their responsibility in this concrete matter. Moreover, today we know that the activities of the murderous Hamas squads, including the squad that kidnapped Nahshon Wachsman, are directed from Gaza. The casualties sustained by the Hamas terrorists include at least two men who participated in the kidnapping and murder of the cadet Shahar Simani and the soldier Frenkental. Two of the dead did not participate only in the kidnapping of Nahshon Wachsman but also in the kidnapping and murder of the late Simani and Frenkental. Some of them participated in the terror attack in Jerusalem earlier this week. All the orders were issued from Gaza; all the organizers came from Gaza; the commander and instructor of the terror squads that killed the late Simani, Frenkental, and Wachsman is from Gaza.

Therefore, despite the fact that Wachsman was not held in the Gaza Strip, the PA must prevent the Gaza Strip, which is under its jurisdiction, from becoming a launching pad from which terrorist operations are initiated and carried out—some of them outside the Gaza Strip.

I know this is a hard and painful day. We have had such days before. The war against terror has been accompanying us for years. I know it is not easy to make the decisions I made, and I bear responsibility on the political level, in my capacity as prime minister and defense minister, for the order to the IDF to plan and execute the operation. I am also convinced that we will never attain either peace or security without willingness to advance toward peace in parallel with fighting extremist Islamic terror—the terror of the enemies of Israel and of peace—despite the pain this entails.

I would say that I would willingly give up the Nobel Prize to bring back to life the two soldiers who died.

[Baraq] Information was received this morning to the effect that the squad that kidnapped Nahshon Wachsman was apparently in Bi'r Nabala, a village southwest of Qalandiyah, not far from Jerusalem. In view of the short time left before the ultimatum expired, IDF, Israel Police, and Shin Bet units set out to meet this challenge. Early this evening, several soldiers from an elite IDF unit began approaching the building where the squad was spotted. They stealthily reached the entrances to the house, which had apparently been prepared in advance to serve as a hideout. All the entrances were blocked and locked and explosives were required to break through them. A brief, tough, and very intensive battle ensued inside the building, in the course of which some of our soldiers were wounded and a terrorist was killed in the initial stage. Another blocked entrance inside the building again required the use of explosives to break through to the room where the kidnappers and the late Nahshon Wachsman were. This resulted in other soldiers being wounded. In the final count, after a few minutes of fighting, the operation ended as follows: To our deep regret, Nahshon Wachsman, whose hands and feet were bound, was shot in the neck and chest, most probably at the beginning of the operation or shortly before it began; three terrorists were killed; and, as we said, an officer from the elite unit was killed as he valiantly fought at the head of his men.

In addition, another member of the squad that kidnapped Nahshon and an accomplice were captured. As the prime minister and defense minister pointed out, the members of the squad included Salah Hasan Jadallah, a resident of the Gaza Strip, and two other Hamas members from the Jerusalem area: Taysir al-Natshah and 'Abd-al-Karim Badr. They participated, in various combinations, in the murder of Shahar Simani and of Frenkental. Some of them took part in the attempted attack thwarted by the Israel Police near the Rockefeller Museum. They were led by a prominent Hamas member from the Gaza Strip who, unfortunately, is still at large. He was involved in the killing of many Israelis, both in the Gaza Strip and in Judaea and Samaria.

We paid a stiff price. We lost Nahshon and another officer. Two soldiers sustained moderate wounds and seven others were slightly injured as a result of the fighting. As said, Nahshon was murdered in cold blood, with his hands and feet bound. At the same time, we are convinced that in the long run, the tenacious fight against such squads is the only possible strategy for a struggling society fighting the kind of struggle we are fighting. When all is said and done, it saves human lives. The right way to judge it is by the extent to which the use of force to rescue hostages and to exterminate terror squads seems a reasonable option. Despite the stiff price, we adhere to this policy. In my opinion, we will still need it for quite some time—and I say this on such a difficult day. Difficult times and tests, as well as achievements

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and a stiff price tag, lie ahead on our way to attaining security and peace. A people that relishes life and the army of a state that relishes life must be able to face the price when it is exacted of us. Our pain and sorrow, the condolences which cannot bridge the emptiness that befalls some Israeli families, and the wishes for a speedy recovery to the wounded notwithstanding, we must forge ahead without wavering, bending, or losing our self-confidence until we attain security and peace.

[Israel Television Channel 1 political correspondent Gadi Sukenik] I would like to ask whether the fact that all along you believed the kidnapped soldier was in Gaza while this was not the case does not point to a very serious problem with regard to our lack of information about what goes on there.

[Rabin] True, over the years we did not always have the necessary information on terrorism-related matters, particularly the radical terrorism of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. I can give examples from an earlier period, when I was defense minister in the national unity government, although the Islamic component was a minor factor in the intifadah events in those days. Yet we know that even during the past two years, there were wanted men whom we have been unable to capture until this day. Here is an example: We know of a certain individual who prepared the car bombs in 'Afula and Hadera, and although he is in Judaea and Samaria, we have not reached him yet. We have been searching for him for a year, perhaps longer.

We are dealing with a complex problem here, although some people try to present it as a simple one. We have an Arab population there which, to a great extent, assists all these elements. There is mutual involvement and an intermingling between us and the Palestinians. The need to deal with terrorism without a dividing line is a serious problem—more difficult than action in an arena in which clear lines separate the two sides. In the reality both in Judaea and Samaria and in Israel, as well as in Gaza—even after its transfer to the PA, because we do have settlements and Israeli traffic there—the intermingling offers radical, zealous terrorists, such as Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, extraordinary opportunities. Therefore, those who tell you we know everything are mistaken.

Yet the enormous opportunities these circumstances offer the terrorists have not been fully exploited by these radicals thanks to the combination of the activities of the security forces, the IDF, the Border Police, and the Israel Police. But can we say we know everything? No, not even in areas under our control. Here they were in Bi'r Nabala, and we did not know it. We were quite certain they were in Gaza. You have to deal here with a reality in which you cannot be certain of your information, and we do not have all the information we need.

[IDF Radio's Yaron Deqel] Mr. Prime Minister, you said earlier that you were prepared to give serious consideration to the suggestion to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. Do you not fear....

[Rabin, interrupting] I checked at 1800 tonight, and there was no serious proposal to that effect.

[Deqel] Are you not afraid that your announcement here may provoke additional kidnappings with the aim of pressuring the Israeli Government to release Shaykh Yasin?

[Rabin] No. I think I must tell the truth, because I have spoken to people other than Israelis. The matter was not raised at our initiative, and no final approval was given, but we said that if such a proposal is indeed made, I would agree to it; however, I gave no final reply. I think that after we proved that we do not give in to the Hamas' ultimatums, that we do not comply with their demands, today's events —despite the pain of the families, the public, and the IDF—were the manifestation of a firm resolve.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el's political correspondent Shlomo Raz] Mr. Prime Minister, you noted that these terrorist operations are directed from Gaza. Do you still have emphatic demands to make of 'Arafat and the PA?

[Rabin] I have demands that existed in the past and were voiced in my meeting with 'Arafat on 25 September, long before the attack in Jerusalem and before the late Nahshon Wachsman's kidnapping. I intend to continue to insist on these demands. I have no doubt that we are right in demanding that the PA act against Hamas, against the Hamas-related terrorist elements in the Gaza Strip, determinedly and promptly, just as we did.

[IDF Radio's Yaron Ben 'Ami] Mr. Prime Minister, last time a similarly traumatic incident happened, when the late Staff Sergeant Nisim Toledano was kidnapped, Israel deported 415 Hamas activists. Does Israel plan to take similar action this time, and do you plan to resume the peace talks on the Palestinian track following the recent developments?

[Rabin] First of all, there was little time in the case of the late Nisim Toledano's kidnapping. We did not receive any sign of life from him, and after the fact we learned beyond any doubt—the post mortem showed it—that he was killed almost as soon as he was kidnapped. In the present case, we had time, and we were bound by duty to question and examine our actions. But after all, the moment we found out where he was held—which we never knew in the case of the late Nisim Toledano—we took action, after we exhausted all the reasonable options. Our emphasis was on the following principle: Wherever the IDF can operate—the risks of a rescue operation notwithstanding, and there is no rescue operation without risks....[pauses] I will not start listing all the past rescue operations and their painful price, but the rescue operations carried out whenever the IDF is able to act are the expression of a determined stand against terrorist extortion.

[MA'ARIV editor Ya'aqov Erez] Mr. Prime Minister, will the IDF operate against terrorist commands and terrorist leaders in the Gaza Strip?

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[Rabin] It would be unwise on my part to speak about future military activity; I do not think we should. I think it is our duty to hunt terrorists wherever they can be reached. I would like to add that in one of my conversations with 'Arafat following Wachsman's kidnapping, I told him: We will see to it that these kidnappers are punished in the severest way possible. The terms I used were a bit sharper than those I used here.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer] Mr. Prime Minister, can you clarify the matter of the negotiations, your dispatching a messenger to the Gaza Strip? Were the negotiations with Hamas conducted directly or through the PLO, because there were reports tonight that Hamas was ready to postpone the ultimatum until tomorrow night? Did you receive an authoritative report on these facts?

[Rabin] First of all, I sent a messenger of my own to 'Arafat to explain my stand. He was not the one who raised the option or the idea of exchanging Shaykh Ahmad Yasin with Nahshon Wachsman. It was raised by the other side, and we tried to follow up on it throughout the day, but without any positive response. That meant that no such option existed. We never intended to negotiate with Hamas. As long as we believed that Wachsman was in Gaza, we regarded the PA and 'Arafat as the element that owed us answers. By the same token, the moment we learned that he was held in an area under our control, we knew it was up to us to come up with an answer.

[HA'ARETZ military correspondent Eytan Rabin] Two short questions for the chief of staff: Sir, was the IDF unit spotted before it reached the house in which the terrorists were staying? Did you have an assessment of the number of terrorists staying in the house?

[Baraq] The troops were not spotted, and we had made an accurate assessment of the number of terrorists inside the house.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent Nahum Barne'a] My first question: Was the decision yours alone, because in past attacks carried out for bargaining purposes, the decision was made by the political cabinet or a broader political forum? My second question: Did you consider during the kidnapping that it might be time to speak with Hamas, because a dialogue may reduce the terrorism? Do you consider this option an alternative track for the future?

[Rabin] With regard to the first question: We held a cabinet meeting this morning. At that time, we had only initial information. The chief of staff, the IDF, and the Shin Bet were all requested by me to prepare a military option. I saw no reason then, while the government was in session, to raise this issue. Had I convened another meeting of the inner cabinet or the full cabinet five hours after the first one, I think I would have exposed and endangered this secret operation. The very urgent summoning of such a meeting....[pauses] Therefore, as I stressed before: As prime minister and defense minister, I am responsible for the orders. There is no question of who gave the orders.

As for the second question, I think we would be deluding ourselves if we thought we could ever reach a dialogue with Hamas by bargaining for the life of an Israeli soldier they abducted in exchange for the release of dozens, or possibly hundreds, of their prisoners. There is no basis. If that is the content of the dialogue, it is inappropriate.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el's Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe] To what extent were the Shin Bet and the Palestinian security forces in touch with each other, and to what extent did the Palestinian security forces help the troops reach the site?

[Rabin] There were contacts and an exchange of information between the Palestinian and Israeli intelligence and police as long as we believed—until this morning—that, judging by circumstantial evidence, Wachsman was in Gaza. At the same time, we continued activities against Hamas. In the course of these activities, and I have to phrase my remarks cautiously....[pauses] The squad that kidnapped Wachsman was made up of four men; three were killed, and the fourth was captured by us. As the chief of staff said earlier, there was also an accomplice who had rented the house in which they hid. Thus, three of the four kidnappers were killed, another was captured, and the accomplice, who rented the house, was also captured by us.

[Deqel] Mr. Prime Minister, in view of the fact that the kidnapped Corporal Nahshon Wachsman was not kept in the Gaza Strip—that is, he was not in territory under the PA's jurisdiction—will the peace talks be resumed in the near future?

[Rabin] On one hand, the information we obtained in the wake of our demand for PA action in the Wachsman case—they did make efforts, albeit more intensive during the last two days than before—undoubtedly makes a difference from the viewpoint of the overall responsibility which the government had demanded. On the other hand, we do not doubt that the link to a major part of the murderous, terrorist activities, which include the kidnapping of soldiers—the late soldiers Simani and Frenkental were kidnapped for bargaining purposes, and the kidnapping turned into murder....[pauses] The goal in the Wachsman kidnapping was the same as in earlier cases. There were their instructions and orders—there were so many I cannot detail them all—including the gimmick of the second videotape, which was made in the house in which we found the terrorists, sent to Gaza, and then forwarded to an international news agency as if it originated in Gaza. They managed to mislead us, too. We will discuss the continuation of the peace process in the light of the security situation and the PA's duty to prevent the Gaza Strip from becoming a safe haven for Hamas activities.

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent Amnon Avramovich] Two questions for the chief of staff: Were there

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any negotiations with the two terrorists behind the iron door, after the house was entered and the first terrorist was killed? Was there any link between this group in Bi'r Nabala and the Gaza leadership?

[Baraq] I will begin with the second question. The Gaza squad received instructions, but we are not certain they were in contact with the local political leadership and that they maintained contact during the attack. These things will be investigated at a later stage.

Regarding the first question, two explosive charges were activated inside the building as the troops were working on the inside door that blocked the entry from the living room to the room in which Nahshon was held; a hand grenade was thrown, and fire was directed at and through the door. In the course of all this activity, which took some time, there were calls to them to give up. They shouted back that Wachsman was dead. That meant both that the soldier was dead and that they were ready and would prefer to die. The fighting went on to the end, until they were killed. As for Nahshon, they killed him in cold blood either at the start of our operation or shortly before it.

[Rabin] If I may: In some kidnapping cases, negotiations were waged with captors after they took over an area, such as in Ma'alot, at the Savoy Hotel; I will not detail the others. They took over and said: We want negotiations. The three—or whatever their number—who held Wachsman never showed themselves. Their method was to remain hidden and present their demands through some obscure mediator. This was not a situation in which hostages were taken and an offer to negotiate was made, saying: We are holding them; everything is open; unless you negotiate with us, we will kill them. In such a case, we would be in direct contact with the kidnappers. That is not the Hamas method and definitely not their way as reflected in this instance. There were announcements, but no one knew whom to talk to. There was no address. Hence the confusion: Is there or is there not a postponement? Who announced a postponement—an Israeli Knesset member or a political Hamas leader who said: I have no connection with the military arm? We were facing problems which in no way resemble the parallels the question was trying to draw.

['AL HAMISHMAR correspondent Pe'erli Shahar] Mr. Prime Minister, first, are you planning to lift the closure on Gaza? And second, why should we not release Shaykh Yasin? As we saw, his public no longer heeds his calls. He appealed to the kidnappers not to harm the late Wachsman. He is an old, ailing man. Why keep him?

[Rabin] His conduct and the state of his health were one of the reasons I was ready to consider exchanging him for Wachsman. That was when I did not know he was in Judaea and Samaria, when I thought he was in Gaza—namely, outside the area in which we could carry out a military operation.

As for the closure, we will discuss the issue and decide. I did not come here to make announcements. I want to examine the situation.

Bi'r Nabala, al-Jib Under Curfew

TA1410230794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2300 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] clamped a curfew on the villages of al-Jib and Bi'r Nabala this evening. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that several dozen villagers were detained for interrogation.

Netanyahu 'Fully' Endorses Rabin Decision

TA1410235194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2320 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tonight, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu voiced his support for Prime Minister Rabin's decision to operate against the kidnappers by raiding their hideout.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] First, the prime minister made a courageous decision, the right decision: to fight back. It was the right decision, and I fully endorse it.

Second, it took courage on the part of the troops, who willingly risked their lives by attacking the terrorists. Their courage was revealed tonight.

The third and perhaps the most important point was the civilian courage the entire nation was required to display. In a sense, the nation was required to be soldiers in a common campaign against terrorism. [end recording]

Opposition Expresses Support for Rabin

TA1510004494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0010 GMT 15 Oct 94

[Report by Hayim Hecht]

[FBIS Translated Text] In times like this, there is no opposition, and everybody rallies around one side of the fence. By the nature of things, all reactions begin with expressions of sorrow and pain and with condolences to the bereaved families.

The right-wing parties say almost without hesitation that in the scenario that evolved, Shamir and Netanyahu, Sharon and Eytan, just like Levi and Ze'evi—all of them would have proceeded exactly as Yitzhaq Rabin did.

Dan Meridor of the Likud said that despite the deep grief over the sorry outcome, the courageous decision of the government, which did not give in to terrorist blackmail, should be underscored.

Yehoshu'a Matza, chairman of the Likud secretariat, stated: The Likud backs all the operations of the prime minister, who did not give in to terror. As one, Matza asserted, we abstained from leveling criticism in these difficult days, and we encouraged him. Matza said the Likud demands that the prime minister deliver a statement to the Knesset as early as next Monday. According to him, Rabin's statement should include two chapters: a security chapter and, certainly, a political one. Political

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conclusions are unavoidable, Matza said. Clearly, the continued implementation of the Oslo principles must be frozen. Territories and authorities should not be handed over to the Palestinians, Matza concluded.

Tzomet's reaction was brief and clear. Knesset Member Refa'el Eytan said: We express our full support for the government's moves and the actions of the security forces.

Rehav'am Ze'evi of Moledet said: Despite the sad outcome, we support the prime minister's decision.

The ins and outs of this incident are very complex: the location on the outskirts of Jerusalem, the involvement of the Palestinian Authority, and 'Arafat's performance—all these and other issues require of the opposition leaders to give the matter a second thought before leveling criticism.

Special Police Deployment Carried Out

TA1510151794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In an operation dubbed "Pouring Rain," police in the Jerusalem District will this evening begin a special deployment for an indefinite period. Our correspondent Gay Qotev reports that 1,500 policemen from Jerusalem and others districts will be deployed in the city. Central areas of entertainment and crowded places will be secured around the clock. Commander Arye 'Amit, chief of the Jerusalem District, called on the public to show restraint despite the recent events.

Security Source on 'Terrorists' Identities

TA1510171894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Nahshon Wachsman's kidnapping was definitely planned in the Gaza Strip. Quoting a senior security source, our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the man who planned the kidnapping and commanded the operation is Muhammad Abu-Dayif, alias Abu-Khalid, who is responsible for attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

The senior security source said that the attack was planned by the military leadership of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip and was not coordinated with the political leadership. During the kidnapping affair, the Palestinian security services informed Israel that in their opinion the soldier was being held in Khan Yunus or in 'Abasan in the southern Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian security services in Gaza arrested Mahmud Hiraz, the man in whose house the interview with the masked man who announced Wachsman's kidnapping was filmed. In East Jerusalem, the Shin Bet arrested a local resident, Jihad Yarmur, who took part in the kidnapping. He is the man who took the videotape from the kidnappers to the Gaza Strip in order to mislead the investigators and make them believe that the soldier was in the Gaza Strip. He is also the man who led the Israeli security forces to the house in Bi'r Nabala where the soldier was being held.

[In a similar report, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1600 GMT on 15 October, adds "The three dead terrorists have been identified as Salah Jadallah of Gaza, Hasan al-Natshah of Ra's al-'Amud neighborhood in East Jerusalem, and 'Abd al-Karim Badr of the Bayt Hanina neighborhood in north Jerusalem. An inquiry has revealed that Jadallah's brother, an employee at REUTERS in Gaza, had participated in filming the videocassette used by the abductors. The terrorist Jadallah had, at one time, been employed by REUTERS. The other two terrorists were known as Hamas activists."]

It now turns out that Nahshon Wachsman hitched the fateful ride last Sunday afternoon at the 'Atarot junction, where he was last seen. Four men who wore skullcaps and spoke Hebrew sat in the car. Only after getting into the back seat did he realize that they were terrorists. He was immediately taken to the house in Bi'r Nabala. Three of the terrorists stayed with him in the house, and the fourth, who was the driver of the car, returned to his house in East Jerusalem and occasionally came to the house. The driver was arrested early Thursday night, after the Shin Bet tracked him down in a complex and intricate operation.

The chief of staff, his deputy, and senior officers gathered at a military base near Jerusalem at 1400 [1200 GMT] yesterday to plan the operation. The briefing to the elite unit was delivered about two and a half hours later. At 1800 [1600 GMT] the troops began moving toward the house where the abducted soldier was being held.

Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe has learned that at that point a report was received that a Mercedes was parked outside the house in Bi'r Nabala. Its driver turned out to be the collaborator who rented the house for the terrorists. At this point, fears arose that the kidnappers might try to move Nahshon Wachsman elsewhere. The troops called off their preparations for the assault and got ready to intercept the vehicle if Wachsman was indeed taken out of the house. However, only the driver emerged from the house. He was captured and taken for interrogation by the Shin Bet.

At 1947 [1747 GMT] yesterday the troops stormed into the house through four entrances made by explosives. One of the terrorists was in the living room and was killed by the soldiers' gunfire. The two terrorists and the abducted soldier were in another room behind a locked iron door. To the soldiers' demand to turn themselves in, they replied in Hebrew that Wachsman was dead and that they were also prepared to die. They threw two explosive charges and a grenade and then opened fire.

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Major Nir Poraz was killed and 12 other soldiers were injured, most of them lightly, in the brief battle waged when the troops broke into the house.

It transpires that Wachsman was murdered by gunshots to the neck and chest at the start of the operation or shortly thereafter. He had been bound in chains.

Baraq Warns of Operations Against Hamas

TA1610053494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq says that if the Palestinian Authority fails to act against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Israel will have to consider how to act against this organization, including within the Gaza Strip. He said that the terrorist and the accomplice who were apprehended will provide Israel with additional information about those responsible for the kidnapping and other Hamas operations.

The chief of staff emphasized that there was no option other than to storm the house on the assumption that the kidnappers would murder Nahshon Wachsman after the 2100 deadline or even before. He said any surrender to blackmail is a sure recipe for the next blackmailer.

Rabin on Hamas 'Terror,' Political Arms

TA1610055094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 16 Oct 94

[Report on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks by political correspondent Jack Katzenell at a news conference at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv on 14 October]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Yitzhaq Rabin did not go so far as to apologize to Yasir 'Arafat for insisting that Corporal Wachsman was being held in the Gaza Strip; Rabin just admitted that the demands he made of 'Arafat were not valid. However, he insisted that Gaza was still the base from which the terrorist operation was conducted. [passage omitted]

[Begin Rabin recording] Gaza has become a fertile ground for the activities of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], not only in the Gaza Strip but beyond it. And, we have to make it clear to Chairman 'Arafat that he cannot have at the same time peace with Israel and peace with Hamas terror groups. I am not talking about Hamas as a political party. I refer to the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam terror groups. [end recording]

So, Rabin is not opposed to Yasir 'Arafat's tolerating Hamas as a political party, but he insists that 'Arafat must take firm action against the military arm of Hamas: the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam.

Rabin did not say precisely what action the Palestinian Authority must take against the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam in order for the peace talks to be resumed, but official sources point out that the identity of the man in charge of the terrorist kidnapping operation is known. He is on the wanted list, and he is at large in the Gaza Strip. It is safe to assume that the Israeli Government wants to see this man arrested and charged before the negotiations are resumed. [passage omitted]

Rabin, Peres at Odds Over Resuming Talks

TA1610061594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The cabinet will apparently lift the closure over the Gaza Strip today, but at this point there is no intention to renew the negotiations with the Palestinians. Prime Minister Rabin is said to believe that a resumption of the talks should be dependent upon security arrangements in the Gaza Strip imposed by the Palestinian Authority [PA] and efforts to ensure the Strip does not turn into a center for terrorists. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres supports renewing negotiations.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says the negotiations with the Palestinians should be renewed immediately. In an interview with reporter Dick Winter, Beilin denied that in the wake of the Wachsman tragedy, the security arrangements agreed to in the Oslo accord are now in question:

[Begin recording] [Beilin] Well, events were very tragic, but suspending the negotiations would be a punishment not only for the Palestinians but also for us, and that's why I believe that our role today is to continue the negotiations with the Palestinians as soon as possible, not to give the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] people the very important and precious prize they wanted us to give them.

[Winter] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Chief of Staff Baraq said last night that if the PA doesn't move militarily against Hamas, Israel will, even inside the Gaza Strip. Dr. Beilin, are we seeing the breakup of the Oslo accord or at least as far as the agreement on security issues is concerned?

[Beilin] No, no. We are very, very far from that. I think that the process is irreversible, but I also think that one should notice the activities which were done by the PA in the last week. It was not enough—we demand them to do more than that—but we cannot ignore the efforts which were made, and I believe that 'Arafat himself understands, or at least should understand now, that it is his moment of truth between the peace process and the Hamas, and I think also that he understands, like us, that the Hamas is not only a force which would like to act against Israel; it is his worst opposition, too.

[Winter] But are we giving him an alternative that he can't face: civil war with the Hamas?

[Beilin] Well, the alternative, of course, is the continuation of the peace process, and there is nothing which is more important for the Palestinian people than making peace with Israel and creating a much more constructive

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atmosphere in the West Bank and Gaza towards an affluent future. [end recording]

Cabinet Decides To Lift Gaza Closure

TA1610123094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In today's cabinet session, it was decided to lift the closure on the Gaza Strip and to delay the decision on whether to resume the talks with the PLO to a later date. This is reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. The cabinet was divided on whether to quickly resume the talks with the PLO: Ministers Shim'on Peres, Mikha Harish, Shulamit Aloni, and 'Uzi Bar'am supported this option, while Ministers Yisra'el Qeysar, Ya'aqov Tzur, and Shim'on Shetrit said the talks with the PLO should be resumed only on condition that the Palestinian Authority undertakes to fight Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 16 October, in a live report by Jack Katzenell, adds the following: "At this morning's cabinet meeting, there were disagreements between the ministers about the way in which the prime minister took the decision to launch the rescue operation and also about the question of when or whether the negotiations with the Palestinians should be renewed. Shulamit Aloni, for example, the minister of communications, was angry with the prime minister for taking the decision to launch the rescue operation by himself, without consulting the other ministers. Apparently Foreign Minister Peres is also disgruntled at not having been consulted, not having been brought into this."]

MK Talab al-Sani' on Wachsman Case

JN1610164794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1220 GMT 16 Oct 94

[Interview with Arab Member of the Israeli Knesset Talab al-San'i by Ahmad Birru; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Birru] Israeli Knesset Member [MK] Mr. Talab al-San'i: On 14 October, you mediated between Hamas representatives and the Israeli Government. This mediation effort resulted in Hamas extending fro 24 hours an ultimatum they had earlier announced in return for meeting some demands which Israel agreed to discuss. This was meant to spare the life of the abducted Israeli soldier.

[Al-Sani'] At 1730 on 14 October, after strenuous efforts I had been making since 13 October, I obtained the approval of Eytan Haber, director of the prime minister's office in this regard. Haber was clear in the message he relayed to me upon the instructions of the prime minister. This message stated that if Hamas publicly announced an extension of the ultimatum, the government pledged to seriously discuss the demands the Hamas Movement had made. For my part, I communicated this message to the Hamas leadership in the Gaza Strip after translating it into Arabic. After almost one hour of consultations and contacts, the Hamas representatives in Gaza Strip gave me a favorable response, saying that they agreed to extend the ultimatum for 24 hours, provided that Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and the female Palestinian prisoners would be freed during these 24 hours. The Hamas representatives added that their approval came in the aftermath of appeals made by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and Salih Shihadah, Hamas leaders held in Israeli jails.

[Birru] In your opinion, why did Israeli troops storm the building in which the kidnapped soldier was held although the Israeli Government had agreed to discuss the demands made by Hamas?

[Al-San'i] The Israeli Government's approval was obtained at approximately at 1845 [on 14 October]. It appears that the prime minister made a hasty decision before even knowing the reaction of the Hamas Movement to the requested extension of the ultimatum. He did not even consult his cabinet members with regard to the step that he had taken. Thanks to this haste, he killed the opportunities to find a positive alternative solution to this issue, particularly since all parties, be they the National Authority or Islamic leaders in Israel, made a great effort to extend the deadline and find a positive way out. Nonetheless, the hasty step taken by the prime minister prevented these gigantic efforts from producing good results, particularly since the Hamas Movement agreed to extend the ultimatum for 24 hours.

[Birru] Does this mean that the Israeli approval of the efforts to obtain an extension to the ultimatum was a ploy meant to buy time?

[Al-San'i] This is possible. Another possibility is that the prime minister took a hasty step without waiting to obtain the Hamas Movement's approval to extend the ultimatum. But, it remains to be said that he is to be held responsible for this hasty step, which thwarted the efforts to find a favorable way out—one that would have created a favorable impact on the peace process.

[Birru] Palestinian Authority member Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim has held Hamas partly responsible for the failure of the mediation efforts, because it ostensibly did not want the PLO to act as a mediator in this incident. How true are his statements?

[Al-Sani'] I am not exactly aware of the statements made by al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim. Nonetheless, I am confident that had there been a favorable response to the extension of the ultimatum, there would have been a favorable way out. Undoubtedly, the Palestinian National Authority played a formidable role to obtain a favorable way out. It did make gigantic efforts toward that end. This reflected its eagerness to promote and sustain the peace process, which concerns the entire

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region. It goes without saying that the abduction operation at this point in time sought to undermine the peace process. Hence, the serious efforts made by all parties, be they the National Authority or other mediators, including myself, to resolve this issue. These mediation efforts sought to neutralize the potential negative repercussions of the abduction on the peace process, to find a favorable way out that would guarantee the release of the abducted soldier, and to obtain the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, whose health condition is bad. As we have seen on television, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin has proven to be a man of positive stands. For, he appealed to the kidnappers not to harm the hostage, because this contravenes Islamic tenets. In my opinion, such a good position should have led to the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

King Husayn Role in Kidnap Negotiations Denied

TA1610165394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 16 Oct 94

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] An official in Jerusalem denied the reports circulating in the Gaza Strip that last week's lightning visit by the prime minister and foreign minister to Amman was really to do with the abduction of Nahshon Wachsman rather than the peace negotiations. The Israel-Jordan peace talks continue uninterruptedly, the official said, and that is also the reason for the second visit by Rabin and Peres. [passage omitted]

Aloni Calls For Shaykh Yasin's Release

TA1610174594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Shulamit Aloni called for the immediate release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the leader of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Aloni asserted that there was no point in keeping him in prison since he could not cause any more harm outside prison than if he remained in jail. Aloni was speaking at the inauguration ceremony for a student radio workshop in Holon.

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King Sends Condolences to Rabin on Wachsman Death

TA1710101094 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Oct 94 p 9

[ITIM report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan's King Husayn sent a message of condolences to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday.

In his message, the Jordanian monarch expressed his sorrow over the tragic end to the kidnapping of the late Nahshon Wachsman, and asked Rabin to relay his sincere condolences to the bereaved families and to the Israeli people.

The king added that the Wachsman affair reminded him of the kidnapping and severe torture of Corporal Husayn Muhammad 'Ali Harb of the Jordanian Army's Fourth Mechanized Division, who was kidnapped last October and tortured by the same radical terrorists and in the name of this same religious fanaticism which runs counter to all the teachings of Islam.

King Husayn ended his message by saying: "God will give all of us the strength and ability to tackle the enemies of peace and the strength to find a way to a successful peace."

Opening of 2d Israeli Border Crossing Point Delayed

NC1510203694 Paris AFP in English 1437 GMT 15 Sep 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Oct 15 (AFP)—The opening of a second border crossing between Jordan and Israel, originally slated for mid-October, has been postponed because of a delay in building a new bridge, officials here said Saturday.

"The postponement is due to the non-completion of work on the Israeli side," said Brigadier 'Imad Ma'ayi'ah, head of the army's engineering corps.

Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to peace talks with Israel, also confirmed the delay but he would not give a new date. "It all depends on the work on the Israeli side," he told AFP.

U.S. President Bill Clinton announced that the border crossing would be inaugurated by October 15.

The announcement came after a meeting at the White House between Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan Ibn-Talal and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on October 3.

The new bridge over the River Jordan will be the second border crossing for third country nationals between Jordan and Israel. The first one, at Wadi al-'Arabah near the southern port city of al- 'Aqabah, was opened on August 8.

The work is being carried out near the old al-Shaykh Husayn bridge, which was partially blown up after the retreat of Iraqi troops in the first Arab-Israeli war of 1948. It was further destroyed during the 1967 conflict.

Constructed under the British mandate for Palestine, the bridge used to link Irbid, 90 kilometres (55 miles) north of Amman, with Jaffa near Tel Aviv.

Muslim Brotherhood Criticizes Iraqi Leadership

JN1410164794 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Oct 94 p 28

[Statement by Information Bureau of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] While the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan announces its support for the fraternal Iraqi people and its objection to starving them and maintaining the blockade on them, we oppose the Iraqi leadership for creating instability in the region by massing forces on the border of the State of Kuwait and giving foreigners an excuse to interfere in the region and blackmail and control its revenues in order to serve the colonialist-Western-Zionist design and to continue the post-war situation in the Gulf that has already caused great calamity.

We urge all parties to solve their own problems away from foreign hegemony and to ensure the rights and interests of their peoples and their nation.

The statement adds: It is better for the Arab parties to reconcile in light of their joint doctrine and religion. And God hath full power and control over His affairs; but most among mankind know it not. [Koranic verse]

God is great, God be praised.

[Signed] The Information Bureau of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan

Paper 'Optimistic' About Outcome of Peace Talks

JN1410163894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Oct p 1

[Editorial: "Ray of Hope in Bilateral Negotiations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] None of the numerous negotiating sessions between Jordan and Israel have concluded on as an optimistic note as the one that ended yesterday evening, which bolsters the hopes for a positive culmination quite soon.

Obviously, the day before yesterday's session between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin must have given a stimulus to the Jordanian-Israeli talks, which had been stuck over technicalities and specifics listed on the agenda.

We are, thus, tempted to anticipate the next round, set to be convened in al-'Aqabah in the middle of next week, with a greater degree of optimism, especially given that

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there now exists a political will to conclude a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel by year's end. It is now obvious that the difficulties that stood in the way of a positive and decisive outcome to the negotiations have now been surmounted. Only such technicalities as the border demarcation and Jordan's share of the Jordan river water remain to be sorted out.

We greet the good news with a spirit infused with a feeling of optimism that a peace settlement which will return our land and water, ensure our security, and open the road for our people to press ahead to a better future is now imminent. We look forward to a fair and dignified peace bolstered by a genuine desire to close the chapter of conflict and tension and open a new one portending development, affluence, stability, and advancement.

Columnist Criticizes Hamas' Handling of Kidnapping

JN1510175194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Oct 94 p 28

["Last Station" column by Salih al-Qallab: "What is Amazing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The abduction of Israeli soldier Nahshon Wachsman was not the first and it will not be the last. The conflict is still going on, the peace process has not yet stabilized, and there are still several complications.

As the cross-border operations continue, it is certain that operations even more tumultuous than the recent operation will take place in the future.

We do not know why the whole world was suddenly mobilized nor why it considered Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat responsible for this operation while similar and bigger operations were carried out in the past when the Israeli Army was still in Gaza. Especially since the kidnapping was carried out in an area that is not under the control of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] but in an area in which Israeli roadblocks, patrols, and camps are present.

We also ask why Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] announced that the kidnapped soldier was in the Gaza Strip if its intention was really the release of imprisoned Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and his brothers and not to embarrass 'Arafat and the PNA. Hamas could have announced this operation without saying where Nahshon Wachsman was, whether in Gaza or elsewhere.

Any attempt to show that the PNA is incapable and helpless only serves a party that does not want a Palestinian state now or in the future. A patriotic mujahid movement such as Hamas should have avoided such a slip, from which the Palestinian people will be the party that is harmed the most.

Undoubtedly, Hamas has the right to carry out its jihad in the manner it wants as long as Israeli forces continue to occupy Palestinian land. However, what draws our attention and raises questions is why Hamas was so quick to announce that the abducted soldier was in the Gaza Strip when it could have left the issue ambiguous if the primary objective of this operation was not to embarrass the PNA or show its inability to maintain the agreements it has concluded.

Hence, we pose the following fraternal question to Hamas: If the peace process collapses and if the PNA fails, will you assume responsibility in Gaza and elsewhere or will you allow the Israeli forces to return to Gaza?

To clarify this, we say that the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier or officer can be fully understood as long as Israel is holding captives from Lebanon and kidnapped Palestinians and prisoners. What is really amazing was the speed in announcing that the kidnapped Israeli soldier was in the Gaza Strip, which is under PNA control and although the abduction took place outside that area and although Hamas could have left the subject ambiguous.

Israel Blamed for Death of Soldier, Stalled Peace

JN1610091594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Oct 94 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "The Bloody Israeli Decision"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arrogance, shortsightedness, and disregard for human life led to very bitter and cruel results the night before yesterday when Israel sent an elite military unit to storm the place where the kidnapped Israeli soldier was held on the outskirts of occupied Jerusalem after claiming that the kidnappers were in the Gaza Strip.

On the day the Nobel Committee announced that the peace prize would be awarded to Yitzhaq Rabin, the Israeli prime minister was gambling with the lives of many people out of blind security considerations, which kept haunting his political vision. Therefore, he was responsible for the death of the kidnapped soldier and those who responded to mediations and gave the Israeli Government an additional grace period during which they would preserve the soldier's life.

We do not know how the Israeli prime minister is going to justify to himself, to the family of the kidnapped soldier, and to the public opinion inside and outside Israel such a decision that showed contempt for human life and ignored the pleas of the soldier's mother as well as all the good offices which could have spared Rabin all this failure and which could have spared others all this unnecessary pain.

In any case, the consequences of this entire regrettable operation should serve as a valuable lesson for all sides, including the Israeli side, which is still ignoring the issue of some 8,000 prisoners who were jailed for the sake of realizing peace and achieving reconciliation between the two peoples. [sentence as published] Although fragile

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peace and a certain degree of satisfactory coexistence emerged, they remained in prison.

We strongly regret this operation which has directly affected all parties, weakened the credibility of the peace process, and claimed many lives. Now that the incident is over, we hope to see a more serious Israeli desire for reconciliation and coexistence in order to defuse such crises, which may be repeated more frequently if Israel does not accept all the requirements of peace.

What is even more regrettable is that Israel resorted to political escalation and bloody conduct at a time when it could have saved the life of the kidnapped soldier, who was held in an area under its control. But arrogance blinded eyes and minds, obstructed the peace process, and subjected peace itself to real dangers.

Paper Commends Iraqi Willingess To Recognize Borders

JN1510145294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Oct 94 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "An Iraqi Step That Imparts Relief"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq's announcement of its willingness to officially recognize Kuwait and to demarcate its international borders with it is a positive development calling for optimism. It is an advanced step toward ending the crisis between the two countries—a crisis that caused chaos in the region and whose wounds our nation is still suffering from today.

This is the first time Iraq has announced its official recognition of Kuwait's borders, as demarcated by the United Nations following the Gulf War. It is also the first time Iraq has responded to a basic demand to end its historical dispute with Kuwait and to lay new foundations for understanding and good neighborliness. If the recognition of Kuwait as an independent state is not something new, then the recognition of its borders legally entrenches this recognition on the ground.

Regardless of what this decision entails, it is supposed to close a chapter from the past, uproot this crisis, and build new foundations for new relations between the two neighboring countries. With this, the UN Security Council resolutions will have achieved their real objectives.

What Baghdad has expressed through this step should put an end to all pretexts and justifications against lifting the sanctions imposed on the Iraqi people, against ending their suffering, against healing the rift in the nation's pan-Arab structure, and against starting a new era of relations based on confidence, good neighborliness, brotherhood, and common history.

We hope that the brothers in Kuwait will respond to this initiative and meet Iraq's desire for peace, understanding, and brotherliness with the attention and seriousness it deserves. We also hope that the brothers in Kuwait will realize that Iraq and its people are their permanent neighbors, and that their security and future cannot be protected by hired fleets and forces that seek hegemony and control, but by setting up firm foundations to deal with their brothers in Iraq and in other countries.

Moreover, we hope that the brothers in Kuwait will realize that keeping the sanctions and maintaining calls for establishing exclusion zones in southern Iraq do not constitute a danger to Iraq inasmuch as they constitute a danger to Kuwait itself and subject it to foreign and regional blackmail.

We call on the Kuwaitis to respond and deal positively with this new Iraqi step and to help put an end to this pan-Arab tragedy and its ramifications. At the same time, however, we must say that an insistence on maintaining the sanctions against the people of Iraq and continuing to deny them sustenance, food, and medicine is no less than attempted genocide. It will be seen as an effort erase their existence and will push them to the verge of despair and extremism. Besides, changing governments and regimes is not the concern of the UN Security Council or of any other party except the will and decision of the people of that country.

Iraq's willingness to recognize Kuwait and to demarcate the borders with it opens a new chapter on the road to peace and security in the Gulf region. We hope that this will be met with wisdom and reasoning and not with a heat-of-the-moment reaction, with the mentality of the past, or a return to the situation where decisions were subject to the whims of others.

Columnist Assails Amman's Position on Kuwait Crisis

JN1510231294 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 15-21 Oct 94 p 12

["A Message" column by Jihad al-Mumani: "An Official Statement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The statement made by an official Jordanian spokesman on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border crisis was ambivalent. It showed a clear desire to appease all those besieging Iraq and to declare repentance within the hearing of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The worst thing about this statement is that it appeased the ugly-looking and powerless Sa'd al-'Abdallah [Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister], who impudently announced that the blockade on Iraq will not be lifted.

Our statement was bad for many reasons. First, it was emotional and hasty. No one was chasing us with a stick so that we had to issue a statement of this kind as though the doomsday was about to come to the Gulf. Second, this statement, though balanced, colluded with the aggressors. Here, the aggressors are the rabid dogs besieging an Arab people who simply want to eat and live like other regional peoples. I am not talking here about

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the shaykhs of Kuwait who do nothing but eat while the Iraqis are building, working, and producing. It is a shame for the United Nations to besiege this people regardless of the circumstances.

The collusion of our official statement lies in the fact that it maliciously specified the party that brandished arms first. The statement referred to Iraq as the party that began the troop movements. It is known that Iraq moved its troops inside its national territory.

We were not asked to issue this statement. It would have been better for our diplomats to have realized that this crisis was a swift raid meant to activate a cause that was being ignored by a spiteful world and later by the Arab nation that extends from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the [Persian] Gulf. No one is asking about the situation in Baghdad or about the Iraqi dinar's exchange rate, except for entertainment purposes. Jordan has been preoccupied with the meetings between Rubinstein and Fayiz al-Tarawinah. Meanwhile, Syria is preoccupied with Faruq al-Shar', and Egypt with [the famous belly-dancer] Fifi 'Abduh.

Yes, Iraq has the right to cross the world's gate with its tanks, and to declare war on the world because the world peoples have shown no understanding or mercy. We in Jordan have the right to ask our government about the objectives of this statement, which was not necessary in the first place. If the statement was meant to move closer to Saudi Arabia in order to support our treasury, we will be glad to return the gift to those who send it because we will not benefit from it. I believe this gift will not enter the treasury, as was the case with previous gifts.

If the objective is to achieve Arab accord, I am frankly not reassured by this statement, which could have been formulated in another way. If the statement aimed to announce repentance and depart from an honorable position which we in Jordan took toward the Iraqi people, then the statement encroached upon the will of an entire people. This is because at that time [during the Gulf crisis], the Jordanians, and not their government, stood alongside the Iraqi people. Thus, no one has the right to deny us this glory of which we will be proud forever.

We suffered because we defied the world in defense of our position. We did not suffer because someone committed a crime.

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Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' Pays Visit

Arrives in B'abda

NC1510124394 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1220 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived at the Republican Palace in B'abda a short while ago to convey a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Gives al-Asad Message to al-Hirawi

JN1510170594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi received [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at B'abda Palace this afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Al-Shar' conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother President Ilyas al-Hirawi that deals with the results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's latest visit to the region.

Al-Shar' also conveyed the greetings and wishes of President Hafiz al-Asad to President al-Hirawi and the fraternal Lebanese people. President al-Hirawi gratefully accepted the greetings and wishes, and asked al-Shar' to convey his compliments and wishes to President Hafiz al-Asad and the fraternal people in Syria.

President al-Hirawi held a lunch banquet in honor of al-Shar'. The banquet was attended by Birri, al-Hariri, and Buwayz.

Al-Shar' arrived in Beirut this afternoon on a visit to Lebanon. He was received at the Syrian-Lebanese border checkpoint by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and a number of ranking Foreign Ministry officials.

Buwayz, al-Shar' News Conference

NC1510185094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Oct 94

[News conference by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' with unidentified correspondents after al-Shar's meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi in B'abda Palace in Beirut on 15 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Shar'] (?I conveyed) a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to President Ilyas al-Hirawi in the presence of Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Minister Faris Buwayz. The message falls within the framework of coordination and consultations between Syria and Lebanon. I informed his excellency the president of the results of Christopher's recent tour and (?we discussed) many issues of concern to the region as well as relations between the two fraternal countries.

[Correspondent] Have you discussed the situation in the south and Israel's deportation of Kafr Huna residents?

[Al-Shar'] Yes, the talks dealt with the situation in the south and [words indistinct] against the south. We believe this will go against the peace process.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, did you discuss the deportation with Secretary Christopher?

[Al-Shar'] We generally discussed the whole situation, both in the south and in other regions, and the impact of this on the peace process.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, [words indistinct].

[Al-Shar'] We have sensed greater seriousness in advancing the peace process. The Americans are concentrating their efforts on bridging the existing gaps between Syria and Israel. I want to add here that Israel is responsible for these gaps. If it wants to advance the peace process and allow tangible progress to be made, it should take into consideration Syria's declared positions, which express a sincere and serious desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on international legitimacy, the UN resolutions, and the principle of land for peace. Had the Israeli Government committed itself to these factors and requirements, the peace process would have made much bigger strides by now.

[Correspondent] Can [words indistinct] be seen as a sign that the peace process has reached advanced stages?

[Al-Shar'] I cannot say that it has reached advanced stages, but it is an expression of a Syrian desire to prove to the entire world, especially to the American public, that Syria is serious in its endeavor to achieve peace on just bases and to pursue the comprehensive objective of the process that was launched in Madrid. The Israeli Government is making many claims and excuses that there is antipeace public sentiment in Israel. Therefore, in addressing the public—whether in Israel, the Arab world, or the world in general—we aim to underscore Syria's sincere and serious intentions and its commitment to a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

[Correspondent] Secretary Christopher always talks about huge gaps between Syria and Israel. Can you tell us what these gaps are? Are there still differences over withdrawal and security arrangements?

[Al-Shar'] Syria stands firm on its fair demand for a full withdrawal. Israel realizes that without a full withdrawal from the Golan, south Lebanon, and the other occupied Arab territories, there will be no just, genuine, and comprehensive peace in the region. The existing gaps, as I said, are not due to Syria or Lebanon, nor the Arabs in general, if we are to be accurate and frank. Israel is probably not ready and not prepared; the Israeli Government may use some incidents here or there as

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excuses, but these excuses are not enough for Israel to evade the requirements of peace, which we have clearly announced.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, does the Syrian stand rejecting any normalization of relations before a full Israeli withdrawal continue? And has the Syrian side been convinced of Israel's intent to (?dismantle) the settlements in the Golan?

[Al-Shar'] Syria's stand is clear and is known to everyone. We cannot establish peaceful relations before a full withdrawal.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, [words indistinct].

[Al-Shar'] We have sensed more seriousness from the U.S. side and an interest in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. In view of its serious attitude and desire, as a cosponsor of the peace process, to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, the United States must take a stronger stand to compel Israel to advance the peace process.

[Correspondent] The French foreign minister [words indistinct] at the expense of Lebanon [words indistinct].

[Al-Shar'] No one is more concerned about Lebanon than Syria. Syria would never embark on any settlement or solution that would encroach on Lebanon's rights or would fail to bring about Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan. From the start we demanded and we will continue to demand a just and comprehensive peace based on the UN resolutions and the land for peace principle. Syria has never tried to reach a unilateral solution. Syria has criticized those who pursued such a course. Syria will never conclude any unilateral solutions, either now or in the future.

[Correspondent] Can you comment on the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to 'Arafat and Rabin [word indistinct] the occupation of south Lebanon and the Golan?

[Al-Shar'] We believe that the Arab public feels that peace has not yet been established. Consequently, this prize cannot be viewed by the area's people as being given at the right time and for the right reason. Thank you.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency Minister Buwayz, [words indistinct].

[Buwayz] His excellency the minister briefed us on the latest developments in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. No doubt, there is crystallization of main topics of this peace. Also, more clarification is being made through these negotiations [words indistinct]. But at the same time, we must not belittle a number of points which still need clarification and which are as important as the [words indistinct].

Accordingly, I believe that this peace is still in need of further negotiations and crystallization; and as you know, we are in agreement and with the Syrians concerning this subject and coordinate constantly. At any rate, we hope that the coming days will witness more seriousness in dealing with these [words indistinct].

As for Lebanon, we are not [words indistinct]. There is a precedent for the issue of tracks. We believe that progress on the Syrian-Israeli track would reflect positively on the Lebanese file [words indistinct].

Buwayz Reveals Indirect Contacts with Israelis

NC1510144894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that all matters on both the Syrian-Israeli and the Lebanese-Israeli tracks will be decided on within the next few months. He said that Syria has reached the point of no return on the road to peace. Minister Buwayz said that the new ideas concerning the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights—ideas conveyed to Secretary of State Christopher during his recent visit to Damascus—are very interesting and more attractive, as he put it.

The foreign minister revealed that indirect contacts had taken place with the Israelis through the Americans and other foreign figures, including British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and French Foreign Minister Juppe. He said that these figures brought to us proposals from Israel during their visits to Lebanon and Israel.

Foreign Minister Buwayz said that the Lebanese file will be discussed as soon as the Syrian file is placed on the correct path.

In a statement to AFP, Buwayz said that it would be in the interest of Lebanon to be the last one to sign a peace agreement. He said that Lebanon does not reject multilateral negotiations; but he added that participation in these negotiations now means that we will be giving up an important stance free of charge at a time when we are unaware of even the Israeli arrangements concerning withdrawal from the occupied territories.

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UK Foreign Secretary Hurd Arrives on Visit

Meets With al-Shar'

JN1410122494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—A round of official talks was held between the Syrian side led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the British side led by Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd at the VIP Lounge at Damascus International Airport today.

Attending the talks on the Syrian side were Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, the director of the special offices, and the director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

On the British side, the talks were attended by Assistant Foreign Secretary Andrew Green, the director of the special offices and official Foreign Office spokesman, and British Ambassador in Damascus Adrian Syndall.

The talks dealt with the recent developments in the Gulf region, and the results of Hurd's tour of some Arab Gulf states. The talks also dealt with the latest developments in the peace process and relations between Syria and Britain. In this regard, the two sides expressed satisfaction with the improvement and development of these relations in all fields.

Hurd arrived in Damascus today on a short working visit to Syria.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the British ambassador in Damascus.

In a statement to the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, Hurd said: I believe that my tour of the region was extremely useful. I am very happy for being in Damascus to hold consultations with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. We believe that Syria plays an important role in the region.

He added: I would like to discuss details of the peace process during my meeting with al-Shar' so as to learn about the progress that has so far been made.

About his tour of the region, Hurd said: As a result of this tour, I gained a clear impression regarding the need to find the means to prevent disturbances which could entail any provocative acts by the Iraqi regime.

Further on Meeting With al-Shar'

JN1410144694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A round of official talks was held between a Syrian delegation led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and a British delegation led by Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd at the VIP lounge at Damascus International Airport today. [passage omitted]

At the end of the talks, al-Shar' and Hurd answered reporters' questions.

Hurd said he was keen to talk with Mr. al-Shar', with whom he has been in touch over the past few months. He said: Both of us are agreed that Britain's relations with Syria are making quick progress. Mr. al-Shar' acquainted me with the outcome of Mr. Christopher's talks in Damascus about the Middle East peace process, added the British foreign secretary.

We want very much for the Syrian track to keep moving forward, the British diplomat said. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is to visit London next week, when it will be useful to discuss the peace process with him. We have also considered the Gulf situation and I informed Mr. al-Shar' of the outcome of my tour of the Gulf states and Jordan. From my point of view, added Mr. Hurd, my talks with al-Shar' were extremely useful.

Mr. al-Shar' was asked about Syria's position on the latest developments in the Gulf and the Russian initiative. We have not studied the Russian initiative yet, since it was announced late last night, he said. When we look at it we will make our stand known, the foreign minister added. Our position on the Gulf crisis calls for the implementation of UN resolutions. Asked what specific steps must be taken regarding the latest Gulf developments, al-Shar' said the Damascus Declaration countries might hold a foreign minister- level session this week.

Asked about his opinion of the Russian initiative, Hurd said he believed it was not adequate and less than decisive insofar as Iraq's recognition of its border with Kuwait is concerned, as demanded by the United Nations.

Mr. Hurd and his delegation later departed Damascus, ending a short working visit. [passage omitted]

Secretary Christopher Holds News Conference

JN1410114594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Following a meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has held a news conference attended by correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies, world television networks, media men, and the media delegation accompanying Mr. Christopher.

At the outset of the conference, Christopher said: I had a meeting which lasted three hours and a half with President Hafiz al-Asad. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', U.S. Middle East Peace Coordinator Dennis Ross, and the U.S. and Syrian ambassadors attended the meeting. We held substantive discussions. I had the feeling now that the parties are extremely serious about achieving peace. They also have great resolution. I have also felt a stronger desire to resolve problems than on previous

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tours. I feel that the two parties are firmly proceeding in the right direction. At the same time, some gaps still exist.

Christopher added: We still need to make further efforts. I want to commend the two parties' efforts and the seriousness they have displayed. I believe that the talks have so far been the most serious and substantial throughout this peace process.

He said: As I said before, we still have hard work ahead of us.

Answering a question on the date set for resuming peace talks between Syria and Israel, Christopher said: In our peace endeavor, we discuss several bilateral issues from time to time. Undoubtedly, the peace process is my main topic of contact with the Syrian Government at present. The two U.S. ambassadors hold regular talks with their counterparts in both parties to discuss issues of joint interest. President Clinton and I devote much of our time, and in fact, all our efforts to the Middle East peace process.

Answering another question on the party mainly responsible for the continuation of gaps between the two sides, Christopher said: I will not blame one party and leave the other regarding the continuation of the gaps. As an honest broker, it would not be right to hold one party responsible. However, I believe that the parties are serious about achieving peace and are ready to find solutions to their problems. They are firmly proceeding in the right direction.

Concerning the party benefiting from the time factor, Christopher said: I believe that the time factor is working against both sides, and that the enemies of peace are the only ones who benefit from postponement. Moreover, I believe that both sides want to move as quickly as possible. They are both concerned about moving quickly as dictated by the responsibility of protecting their own interests. They are aware of the importance of the time factor. At the same time, they want to be very cautious, and they are both earnest and serious.

Asked whether he was afraud that the abduction of the Israeli soldier might slow down the Syrian-Israeli track, and whether he discussed this issue with President al-Asad, Christopher said: I hope that such actions will not slow down this track. My personal belief is that times are changing, things are moving in a more positive and open direction, and the general view of the region is changing quickly. The two sides are determined to move forward on the Syrian-Israeli track regardless of what would happen.

He added: I have discussed this issue with President al-Asad, and I do not want to speak on his behalf.

Commentary Views Results of Christopher's Visit

JN1510153894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 GMT 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Once again, the U.S. secretary of state has ended his tour of the region by speaking about the seriousness of the parties concerned with the peace process and the presence of gaps between their positions.

Once again, the U.S. Administration has expressed its concern for continuing efforts to advance the peace process and its desire to help in tackling the gaps between views.

The picture that has come from Christopher's tour of the region gives many signs and raises many questions about the future of the peace process. One of the facts of the latest tour is that Syria renewed its credibility and emphasized its eagerness to render the peace process successful in order to reach its objective of realizing a just and comprehensive peace that ensures security and stability in the region.

During his meeting with Christopher, president Hafiz al-Asad emphasized Syria's adherence to the peace process in accordance with its principles and objectives, which lead to a just and comprehensive peace that ensures the interests and dignity of all parties.

Following the second meeting, the Syrian side welcomed the U.S. determination to continue its efforts to realize just and comprehensive peace in the region, something that renewed Syria's position and eagerness to realize peace, render its available historic opportunity successful, and respond to the U.S. efforts in a manner that realizes this objective.

The remaining question is: How far will the U.S Administration's efforts succeed in advancing the peace process through bridging the gaps? The answer is based on the nature of the points of disagreement in positions, whether those related to substance or those related to the form and mechanics—although it is a mistake to separate form and substance completely in such a comprehensive issue as peace.

So far, Israel wants partial solutions and phased settlements, and does not want to fully withdraw from the Golan, south Lebanon, and western al-Biqa'. It uses the subject of security arrangements as a pretext to speak about partial withdrawals. It speaks about good intentions to get what it wants, such as establishing relations, normalization, opening borders, and periods to test intentions in order to justify phased agreements.

By this, Israel is depending on unfruitful formulas in a bid to bypass the resolutions of international legitimacy, jump over the facts of peace—led by full withdrawal, and torpedo the Madrid formula in order to realize its objectives of evading the requirements of peace. On the other hand, Syria's eagerness to realize just and comprehensive peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy has become unquestionable. Syria has been clear on the search for peace as a strategic option, but this peace should be one that restores land and rights,

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and that does not undermines dignity. This peace should respond to international legitimacy, fall in line with the international community's will, and reflect the principle of full peace in return for full withdrawal.

Had Israel really worked for the success of peace through abiding by the principles approved by Madrid conference, the U.S. sponsor would have succeeded in its efforts to end the stalemate in the peace process. Yet, what can be done since Israel is the one responsible for the stalemate? Israel's failure to implement the international resolutions is the cause of the gaps. These are the facts that the U.S. sponsor should take into consideration when it resumes its efforts to implement the U.S. Administration's commitment to reach a just and comprehensive peace. Otherwise, the peace process will continue to be stalemated by Israeli procrastination.

Commentary on U.S., Israeli Efforts in Peace Process

JN1410171094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Anyone who believes that genuine progress in the peace process can result from deviating from the bases of the peace process and from bypassing the principles of justice and comprehensiveness, which are necessary for building a peace that will achieve security and stability in the region, is mistaken. They are even more mistaken if they believe that genuine progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks is possible as long as Israel continues to deal with the peace process through deceptive and misleading methods, piecemeal solution proposals, phased settlements, and incomplete and unequal deals.

The sought-after, genuine peace in harmony with the will of international legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions needs serious and responsible stands, in addition to good faith, which Israeli stands and intentions have been sorely lacking. The time- wasting games of role distribution played by Israeli officials have been exposed. Their objectives—to exert pressure and blackmail and at obstruct any opportunity to achieve a real progress in the peace process—have been uncovered. They also aim at emptying the peace process of its real content, which is based on justice and comprehensiveness, and at replacing this with partial deals and separate agreements whose known examples have already harmed the concepts and bases of peace and the opportunities for its success.

The entire world and the cosponsors of the peace process, particularly the American sponsor, who launched the peace initiative and who is exerting great efforts in the peace process, are aware that Syria has done all that it can to advance the peace process in accordance with its bases. Facts, contacts, and talks have proven the sincerity of Syria's peaceful stands and its intentions toward peace, which is considered Syria's strategic option. On the other hand, the world has witnessed continuous Israeli attempts to evade a just and comprehensive peace and the resolutions of international legitimacy. This was represented by Israeli officials' evasion of the requirements of peace and its firm principles, particularly full withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and all the occupied Arab territory.

In its game of jumping ahead, Israel has always set conditions that are not related to the essence of peace and has demanded normalization, the opening of borders, and economic and political relations before paying any of the required costs of peace. This means dictating Israeli terms, in accordance with Israeli interests, while fully ignoring the requirements, bases, and conditions of peace, making it impossible to achieve peace. Peace has its own components. Israel should abide by these components and respond to international legitimacy so that it will be possible to talk about achieving progress.

As President Hafiz al-Asad has reiterated, Syria adheres to the peace process in accordance with its principles and objectives, which will lead to a just and comprehensive peace that will achieve the interests and dignities of all parties. When Israel responds to international legitimacy and returns all the land and rights to their legitimate owners, peace will be attainable and will move steady toward success. Otherwise, the peace process will continue to move in a vicious circle. The Syrian side has welcomed the determination of the United States to continue its efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. The shortest way for the success of the mission of the full partner lies in placing Israel on the track of international legitimacy to implement its resolutions.

When the parties converge, with all implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy, gaps will be narrowed, because the gaps are the result of Israel's evasion of implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Press: Israeli Proposals Aim To Create Obstacles

JN1410140894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Oct 94

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Under the headline "The Seriousness of the Syrian Position," TISHRIN says in its editorial today that Syria is serious about boosting the peace talks to achieve a just, comprehensive peace. It says: Undoubtedly, Syria's interest in peace is great, paralleled only by its adherence to the constants, principles, and bases of a just, comprehensive solution and a genuine and complete implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Madrid land-for-peace formula.

TISHRIN adds: Therefore, in its serious and sincere endeavor to ensure the success of the peace process, Syria proceeds from the principle of total withdrawal in

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return for comprehensive peace. The occupation must be brought to an end, and Syria must restore the Golan—this Syrian Arab territory, which must return to its Syrian owners and people. Also, to pave the way to peace, the occupation must be removed from southern Lebanon.

The paper says that when Syria stresses that peace is a strategic option, this is because it has sincere peaceful intentions and is eager to work to facilitate moves and activities that focus on making a genuine and comprehensive peace. While indicating its resolve to continue peace effort, TISHRIN says, Washington commends the serious Syrian position seeking to achieve the goal of the peace process.

The paper says that if Israel continues to make the same proposals which show an intention to keep the occupied Arab territories and to maintain its settlements as hotbeds of occupation over the occupied Arab territories, this means that it does not want peace.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: These proposals simply aim to create obstacles on the path of peace and evade the bases and requirements of peace. This is because rejection of withdrawal from the Golan means rejection of peace, and because Syria cannot accept the continuation of the occupation, or any part of it, or that the settlements be kept, for occupation is the natural antithesis of a just, comprehensive peace.

In one of its comments, AL-THAWRAH says that the genuine aspired just, comprehensive peace that is in line with the will of the international legitimacy and the UN resolutions needs serious and responsible stands, not to mention sincere intentions. However, all that is absent from Israel's stands and intentions.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the entire world and the cosponsors of the peace process, especially the United States, which launched the peace initiative and exerted major peace efforts, realize that Syria has done everything necessary to facilitate the advancement of the peace process on its set track. Developments, contacts, and talks have proved the credibility of Syria's peaceful stand and sincere intentions toward peace, which is a Syrian strategic option.

The paper adds: On the other hand, the world has witnessed successive Israeli attempts to evade a just, comprehensive peace and the resolutions of international resolutions. This has been evident in Israeli officials' evasion of the requirements and bases of peace, at the forefront of which being total withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and all occupied Arab territories. The paper says: As President Hafiz al-Asad asserted: Syria is committed to the peace process in accordance with its principles, and objective, represented by a just, comprehensive peace that meets the interests of all parties.

Concluding its comment, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria has welcomed the U.S. resolve to continue efforts to achieve to a just, comprehensive peace in the region. The shortest way to ensure the success of U.S. efforts is to place Israel on the track of international legitimacy and its resolutions.

In another comment, AL-THAWRAH discusses the obstacles and hurdles that Israel is planting to abort the peace process. It says: Israel has no intention to attach importance to the international community and its laws and resolutions. Nor does it intend to attach importance to the U.S. efforts, which, three years after the Madrid conference, are still unable to implement the U.S. commitment to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region in accordance with Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace formula.

AL-THAWRAH adds: It is on this basis one can understand the Israeli motives and objectives behind raising impossible conditions especially on the Syrian track, and the maneuvers in which Labor and Likud politicians and generals alike are engaged in wasting time, evading the implementation of international resolutions, and emptying the ongoing political process from any content which may deny the aggressor the fruits of aggression.

The paper says that it is natural and logical that the Arabs, rather than Israel, demand security and security guarantees. Israel was established on aggression and expansion. It terrorizes and kills Arabs, and has displaced thousands of Arabs from Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon.

Concluding its comment, AL-THAWRAH says: The Tel Aviv rulers should give up their illusions and accept the fact that a just, comprehensive peace is the only guarantee for security for all.

Press on Peace, Need for Security Arrangements

JN1510121094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Oct 94

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an article headlined "Israel Is the Loser," AL-THAWRAH says that Syria has dealt and continues to deal seriously and responsibly with the peace process, proceeding from the premise that peace is a strategic option. Adhering to its rights and the Arab people's rights, Syria has spared no effort to enhance this option. This Syrian commitment to peace must be reciprocated by an Israeli commitment to withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon so that the equation would become feasible.

AL-THAWRAH says that a peace serving the interest of one party at the expense of other parties' rights will be neither a fair nor durable peace. This fact is confirmed by the course of events in the Gaza Strip after the Oslo agreement and the establishment of the self-rule authority. Those events have exacerbated Israel's

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dilemma. Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority failed to contain the intifadah or win the confidence of the Palestinians.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says Israel's statements and stand on peace, negotiations, and normalization are vague, contradictory, and lack credibility. Israel does not go beyond demanding normalization and that the Arabs relinquish their territory and rights. This stand is rejected by Syria. As long as there is occupation in any way, other requirements of peace will not be realized.

TISHRIN publishes an editorial headlined "Where Is Israel's Seriousness?" In this editorial, the paper refers to the U.S. secretary of state's assertions after two lengthy sessions with President Hafiz al-Asad that the United States will continue efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

TISHRIN says that although the U.S. secretary refused to blame either party, Israeli officials continue to view the peace process from a perspective that is very far away from the UN Security Council resolutions, the Madrid conference, and the principle of land for peace, thus threatening to waste a unique opportunity to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region.

TISHRIN says that UN Security Council resolutions deem it impermissible to occupy others' land by force and call on Israel to withdraw all its troops and not to change the identity of the occupied territories. Since the launching of the U.S. initiative, Syria has announced that the Golan will never be subject to bargaining. Hence, Syria does not only insist on Israel's speedy withdrawal, but also on the evacuation of settlers and dismantling of settlements. In case of withdrawal, security arrangements must be equally balanced [mutakafi'ah]. Yet, it should be noted that peace is the guarantee for regional security and stability.

Radio Commentary Blames Israel for 'Gaps'

JN1610162694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Current events in the region, particularly the peace process, prove day after day that Syria's position is credible and positive and is in harmony with international efforts to push the peace process forward and to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. These events also prove Israel's fluctuating, contradicting, hard-line, and negative position on efforts to overcome obstacles and gaps, which the American sponsor has announced in statements by its envoys to the region.

The gaps existing between the Syrian and Israeli positions are in fact one big gap in the Israeli side. The stumbling peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, the deteriorating peace efforts on the other tracks, the attempts to weaken the bases of the Madrid conference, the distortion of the goals of the noble peace process, and the exploitation of the situation in favor of one party, Israel, prove that the gap is the Israeli side's alone.

Peace has one basic pillar, from which the peace process can be launched and without which this process will recede and vanish. This pillar is represented in Israel's withdrawal from the territory that was occupied by force in June 1967. Unless Israel announces its readiness to apply all the international resolutions taken at that time and to carry out a total withdrawal from that territory, the gap will continue to exist, will become even larger with the passage of time, and will lead not only to halting the peace process, but also to serious events that will show current events in the region to be simple and the least dangerous of all.

Syria has accepted the principle of trading peace for land and announced the linkage of that slogan with the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy because it believes that territory is a priority and also a condition for peace and that regaining the territory will produce peace. There will be no peace without territory and there is no use in sophist dialogue as long as Israel is wagering on the opposite as a result of the loopholes it has created in several places and at different times.

Syria has said its piece, announced its position, and will continue to announce that a just and comprehensive peace will remain its goal, that regaining the occupied territory is a principal condition for just and comprehensive peace, and that it is always ready to respond to all international efforts that will achieve these goals.

By adhering resolutely, determinedly, and credibly to what the international community has agreed and to the contents of the U.S. initiative, Syria is seeking permanent peace, security and stability in the region, and progress and prosperity for the region's peoples.

Therefore, we assert that the fruits of peace that the region's peoples are seeking should all be linked to peace, and no one has the right to reap these while peace is still far from being achieved.

Palestine Broadcast Defends Hamas Kidnapping

JN1510200394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Oct 94

["Palestine" program: "Talk of Return" feature by Fayiz Qandil]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers: Yitzhaq Rabin, usurper of Palestinian lands and enemy of the Palestinian people's quest for freedom, has taken responsibility for the bloodbath carried out by the Israeli colonialist troops in Bi'r Nabala yesterday. The operation resulted in the martyrdom of several Palestinian Arab mujahidin and strugglers and the death of several

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Israeli colonialist troops, not to mention the death of the Israeli soldier detained and kept alive by the Palestinian strugglers. The life of this Israeli soldier could have been spared had it not been for the bullets of his Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is currently shedding crocodile tears that he will use as an excuse to carry out future Israeli terrorist operations against the Palestinian Arab people of the occupied homeland.

Was it not Rabin himself who shamelessly announced in the aftermath of the massacre carried out by Baruch Goldstein in Hebron eight months ago that there were no guarantees for preventing a repeat of such a massacre against the Palestinian Arab people by Israeli terrorists? At any rate, to put Yitzhaq Rabin's acknowledgement of responsibility for the Bi'r Nabala massacre yesterday in its proper perspective, we should recall two specific facts. The first is that the Haganah, Stern, and Irgun gangs kidnapped British soldiers and officers, and hanged them from tree branches when the British mandate over Palestine was Rn its last years. This was despite the fact that it was Britain that breathed new life into Zionism through the Balfour Declaration, according to which Britain bequeathed a land it does not own to an undeserving people. That is, these Zionist organizations chopped off the British hand that aided and sustained them.

Worse still, the Haganah, Stern, and Irgun gangs committed such atrocities against British soldiers and officers in the immediate aftermath of World War II—in which British soldiers, along with others, fought Hitler and Nazism, which Israel says tried to eliminate Jews. It follows from this that the British saved Jews from the Nazi Holocaust in 1945, just as the Arabs saved Jews from the massacres they could have experienced in Castile in Spain 502 years ago.

Yitzhaq Rabin may well have been a member of one of these Zionist gangs that carried out such terrorist activities against British troops in Palestine, in fact, it is certain that Rabin was one of them. This because his age allows us to safely make such an assumption. This fact demonstrates that it was the Zionist gangs that brought terrorism to this part of the world, although Israel condemns alleged Arab terrorism on a daily basis.

The second relevant fact is that Zionist gangs then; that is, in the aftermath of World War II, blew up two ships; namely, (La Fatriya and Strom) at Haifa Port, drowning thousands of Jews to make it easy for the Jewish Agency, the then Jewish leadership, to claim that these Jews who arrived in Palestine without prior British approval committed collective suicide to protest attempts to deport them outside Palestine.

It goes without saying that these drowning Jews died without knowing the cause of their death. They were unaware of this alleged collective suicide. The lesson to be learned from this crime is that Yitzhaq Rabin must wipe away, with his own hands, the crocodile tears he is shedding over the Israeli soldier killed by his own soldiers in cold blood in Bi'r Nabala yesterday.

Having said all this, let us examine the circumstances in which the heroic Palestinian resistance men apprehended the Israeli soldier killed by Yitzhaq Rabin's soldiers. Had he chosen to meet the Palestinian strugglers' legitimate demands, Rabin could have saved this soldier's life.

Given all this, the following considerations are inescapable:

First, Yitzhaq Rabin's government was not initially aware of the detention and apprehension of the Israeli soldier by the Palestinian Arab strugglers. It became aware of this fact only after the Palestinian resistance men announced their detention of the Israeli soldier. Once the Palestinian resistance men made an announcement to this effect, the Israeli Government started a clamor about the issue, demanding a search for the kidnapped and detained Israeli soldier.

Second, if the Palestinian resistance men had not announced their capture of the Israeli soldier, the Israeli Government would not have learned anything about it until the soldier's family or military unit informed them of his disappearance. Only then would the Israeli Government have launched a large-scale search for the Israeli soldier—a search in which thousands of army, security, Mosad, Shin Bet, Nahal, and (Gidma') personnel, as well as the so-called Border Guard, helicopter gunships, hounds, and trackers could have participated. But the campaign, which would have taken a week, would not have produced anything. Something like this actually took place in Israel five years ago.

Third, the soldiers of Yitzhaq Rabin killed the Israeli soldier in cold blood on his direct orders. Later, he admitted this fact.

All this could have been avoided if they had met the legitimate demands of the Palestinian strugglers, who asked for nothing but the release of a number of tired Palestinian and Arab prisoners in Israeli jails. Israel should have released them a year ago, when that agreement—that would have killed the rights of the Palestinian Arab people were it not for the continued Palestinian Arab struggle—was reached. By agreement, we mean the Gaza- Jericho agreement, the Oslo agreement, the limited self-rule agreement, or the so-called Declaration of Principles.

If Israel had released the 10,000 Palestinian prisoners as it agreed under that agreement, it would have given some evidence that it would respect and take seriously the idea of just peace instead of deceiving, procrastinating, and terrorizing people, as it is doing now.

Therefore, what the Palestinian strugglers demanded from the Israeli occupation was already guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Human Rights Charter, and the Hague and Geneva accords.

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Even the agreement of submission, known as the Gaza-Jericho agreement, stipulates it. But Yitzhaq Rabin acted rashly and ordered his soldiers to commit the Bi'r Nabala massacre yesterday, after which we heard many filthy Israeli insults to the Palestinian Arab people and to the idea of freedom and just peace. By this, Israel has insulted only itself.

The Palestinian Arab people compare the 25 February Hebron incident with the Bi'r Nabala incident yesterday. In Hebron, Israeli colonialists ordered the Israeli settler soldier, Baruch Goldstein, to commit a massacre at the holy Ibrahimi mosque in which he martyred 50 people and wounded hundreds of others. Two days after that, the likes of Baruch Goldstein celebrated the incident, convinced by their racism that Baruch Goldstein carried out a heroic deed. They danced around his grave and one of them, a rabbi, announced that 2 million Arabs are not worth even a broken fingernail of Baruch Goldstein.

The Israeli Shamgar Commission, which was set up by Israel to forge an investigation of the massacre, testified and heard testimony from Israeli soldiers and officers that killer Yitzhaq Rabin ordered them to disappear when the criminal, terrorist settlers opened fire on the disarmed Palestinian people. Despite this scandal, Yitzhaq Rabin has neither evicted the Israeli terrorists from Qiryat Arba' nor stripped them of their weapons up until now, seven months after the massacre. He does not even take their weapons when they enter the mosque.

These are some aspects of the behavior of Israel and Yitzhaq Rabin, which proves that Israel, which shed many tears over its beloved soldier, who was killed by Yitzhaq Rabin's own soldiers, sees nothing in the Arabs other than what was seen by its Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren, who believe that the only good Arab is a dead Arab and that Israel should kill them all to empty the Palestinian Arab land. The Palestinian Arab citizen in particular and the Arab citizen in general is a human being, and consequently, he is not as tolerant as an angel and has no choice but to understand what Israel is saying and what Israel wants from him.

As a result, this militant Palestinian Arab citizen will become extremist in light of his just and legitimate understanding of what Israel wants from him. He will become extremist in light of that and will seek martyrdom in order to liberate his homeland, which has been usurped by Israel, as well as his people, whom Israel is prosecuting, torturing, and exploiting. May God have mercy on our righteous martyrs in Bi'r Nabala and may he grant paradise to them, along with righteous people and martyrs. They will also remain in the hearts of their Arab nation as brave soldiers. The tyrant alone will be destroyed.

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President Rabbani Meets With Opposition Leaders

LD1510164394 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] While fighting in Kabul between the belligerent Afghan groups continues, Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has met several leaders of the opposition groups, including the leader of the Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolution Movement], Mawlawi Mohammed Nabi Mohammadi; the leader of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction, Mowlawi Yunes Khales; and the leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union], Abdorrasul Sayyaf in Jalalabad and conferred about the latest Afghan developments.

According to Afghan sources, the meeting between Rabbani and the opposition is about the Quetta talks. Those talks, which began on 7 Mehr [27 September], are part of the efforts by the UN special envoy in a renewed mission aimed at restoring peace in Afghanistan.

Political Accord Signed

LD1510180694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At today's meeting held in Jalalabad city, the four leaders of the jehadi formations have agreed on major political issues. The meeting of the leaders of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolution Movement], Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] under the leadership of Mawlawi Mohammad Yunes Khales, Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society]; and Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union], which started two days ago, is still continuing.

The Bakhtar Information Agency correspondent reports that the four jehadi leaders in their session today have signed the following accord:

1. To strengthen and to consolidate the Islamic government in the country.

2. To set up an Islamic Shura having the ability to find a solution for the nation's common difficulties and to resolve them in accordance with their views and decisions.

3. To set up a society or an organization consisting of the ulema who have the duty to (? consider) the government decisions and (? issue) Islamic edicts [shari'a fetwa].

4. To safeguard and maintain the country's security by the mojahedin.

5. To get rid of the remnant of the former atheist government in the military posts and [passage indistinct]

6. To extend privileges and respect to the leaders of the jehadi formations.

7. To avoid class, language, and race discrimination; to accomplish duties in accordance with Islamic principles and provisions.

8. To set up a Shura consisting of 30 members from each province of the country; to render a decision for the formation of a grand Shura; to elect the country's head of state and to discharge the above mentioned circumstances. We invite the jehadi formations to agree with these principles and methods.

[Signed] Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi; Mawlawi Mohammad Yunes Khales; Ustad Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf; Ustad Borhanoddin Rabbani

Fighting Between Government, Militia Continues

10 Injured in Kabul

LD1510162594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Golboddin militia again carried out a rocket attack on the residential areas of Kabul city.

The Kabul garrison general command said that 21 rockets were fired today, as a result of which 10 citizens of Kabul were injured. A house located in Ward 10 was also destroyed.

Fighting in Kabul, Other Areas

LD1510171494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Warring factions in Kabul attacked each other in south and south west of the city by various heavy weapons yesterday afternoon.

According to reports reaching here government forces have cleaned up and now control supply roads to the south of Kandahar.

Sources from Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] report that 35 passengers died when ammunition in their civilian bus exploded near the eastern city of Jalalabad last week.

Meanwhile in a meeting in Jalalabad yesterday with war commanders from the province of Nangarhar, President Rabbani hoped that the continuation of talks between leaders of the various groups will lead to peace in the country.

Nangarhar province is controlled by an independent jehadi council.

Iran

Emami-Kashani on Gulf Issues, U.S. Presence

LD1410163894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1203 GMT 14 Oct 94

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, Tehran interim Friday imam, on 14 October in Tehran—recorded]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] There are a few topics I want to mention in order in the second sermon.

The first topic is the uproar that you have witnessed, which has been created by the global arrogance in the Islamic world and in the Persian Gulf region. Of course, all of these actions are testimony to their disgrace. This is a testimony that rejects their claims. America's claim is that human rights should be protected in the world. Then, the United States, with such claims and with so much pomp and circumstance, opens the doors for itself through covert scene dealings and by taking advantages of the weakness which exists in the regions—the weaknesses of the regional countries and their lack of policy—and sends troops to the region. Now it says that our warplanes should remain in the region.

The United States takes the money from these nations, the Muslims' public wealth within these Persian Gulf littoral states, rules over them, screams at them, shows off its strength, and then calls this support!

It is obvious to all that there is nothing else in their dictionary but arrogance and an arrogant attitude, oppression, exploitation, and suckking the blood of the Muslim and Third World nations. They have come here. On the one hand, they watch the mass execution of the Bosnian people and give the green light. They become involved directly in the mass execution and displacement of the Palestinian people. They resort to all types of crimes wherever they can. Now they have overtly come and occupied the region in this manner.

On the other hand, this demonstrates the weakness of the Persian Gulf littoral states. Iraq and Kuwait—two Muslim countries—which should be living properly side by side as neighbors, are now at each others' throat. And just as I said, through misunderstanding, suspicion, weakness, and everything which could be listed as misfortune and misery, they have opened the way in this manner and brought this hysterical bully [qodrat-e arbadehkesh] into the region.

However, if the region's Muslims had been alert, the arrogant powers would not have been able to do these things. It is the people who pose a problem to them. The dear leader of the revolution—may his shadow extend—spoke this week about the courage and zeal of the Iranian nation, just as he has done on many occasions. Our esteemed imam [Khomeyni] also acknowledged this all the time. The world is also aware of the fact that this is what the Iranian nation is like—strong, powerful, independent, a rejector of the enemy. Therefore, despite the fact that the enemy is at the doorstep of this great nation, the great Iranian nation, with all its greatness, glory, courage, and its youth—who are fretting about not becoming martyrs and who pray that they may go to the battlefronts—the enemy knows that this nation is not afraid of threats. [passage omitted]

I wish to advise the committee in charge of controlling prices and preventing profiteering on two points. Those who enforce the law—from the officer on the scene up to the highest authority who is going to investigate the results—should consider two points: The first point is that when dealing with the problem of economic sabotage and profiteering, one must start from the top and work to the bottom, and vice versa. That is, every individual responsible must be dealt with. If we only deal with the last point of distribution [shopkeepers] and overlook those who muddy the waters from the source, we will fail.

We must stop those who are the root cause of the problem. Those who sabotage the production and distribution process, the root causes of the problem must be dealt with without hesitation, without standing on ceremony, and regardless of connections. This is not the place for standing on ceremony or worrying about connections. It is not the time now to have consideration for those with status or connections. No matter what their status, or their connections, anyone who imports and charges high price for a commodity must be dealt with severely. [chants of approval from congregation]

High prices pervade the whole country in various commodities. [passage omitted] It should be dealt with from the start—the producer—to finish, which is the retailer.

That is one point. The second point I want to discuss with you is that, when planning, we should fight with all our might against contraband goods entering the country. Bearing in mind that the government policy is to propagate domestic production, and that the government economic considerations cover contraband goods, those who combat profiteering and disruption of the existing system should regard the contraband issue as crucial.

That is the second point. God willing, I hope that with the support of our great nation, the guidelines of the beloved leader of our revolution, and the efforts of our respected president, that move will quickly achieve good results. [passage omitted]

Meshkini Criticizes Iraqi, U.S. Moves in Gulf

LD1510165594 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1450 GMT 15 Oct 94

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah 'Ali Akbar Meshkini, speaker of the Assembly of Experts, in Qom on 14 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] There is another minor point. We are seriously disgusted with the suspicious acts of the Iraqi Government. Such inappropriate movements. We respect the territorial integrity of all countries. We respect the borders of all countries. We would not accept the aggression of one country against the borders of another. There is an aggression every day—plotting among themselves behind closed doors every day. One day to make Iran's Khuzestan province a

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part of Iraq and then aggress against it. Another day to make Kuwait a province of Iraq and then aggression. And with such defeat and such shame. Why is it that you have started another aggression? We don't understand this. We are disgusted with these events.

Also there is the inappropriate involvement of America. We condemn the illogical and bullying American presence in the Persian Gulf and other places. [crowd chants in approval] America sees itself as the world guardian, but it is making a mistake. The people and the governments of the world do not accept its guardianship. They don't want a big brother standing over them. This is because of the issues of Somalia, Haiti, and other places, in particular Iran. This is a mistake which we condemn. We hope, God willing, that the American leaders will sit down and show intelligence and wisdom. [passage omitted]

Nateq-Nuri Urges Vigilance in Face of 'Schemes'

LD1510141894 Tehran IRNA in English 1408 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 15, IRNA—Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said here Saturday [15 October] that the U.S. military build-up and creation of tension in the Persian Gulf region, including its waging of the oil war were among Washington's new schemes.

"We should stay vigilant in the face of America's military expedition into the region," Nateq-Nuri warned.

He made the remarks in the opening session of a congress on social securities here.

The Majlis speaker said the root cause of the country's political and international problems was the Islamic Republic of Iran's adherence to its principles and the fact that it was not ready to bow down before the arrogant powers. For the same reason, he added, the Iranian system should defend its positions and ideology.

Nateq-Nuri condoled the Iranian nation and the bereaved families of the victims of the last Wednesday's plane crash in which all the 66 passengers and crew of the Fokker F-28 plane, belonging to Asseman airlines, lost their lives.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president said that economic adjustment [words indistinct] but not in all areas. He said the Majlis was sensitive towards the issue of government subsidies for basic goods and that it will continue in the coming years. But he said the price of fuel should be revised because, he said, the government was paying rls. 17,000 billion in fuel subsidies each year.

Addresses Majles on Prices, U.S.

LD1610120694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At the start of today's open Majles session, Speaker ['Ali Akbar] Nateq-Nuri made a speech in which he called on the government to fully supervise the adequate supply of basic goods in order to remove the bases for profiteering and excessively high prices.

Referring to the president's decisive stand on confronting profiteering and high prices and to the support of the eminent leader of the revolution [Khamene'i] for his stand, Mr. Nateq-Nuri expressed hope that the government, with the cooperation of the people, will seriously and decisively combat illegal profit taking.

He noted the revived use of government punishments [punishment for offenses with no religious connotation] and stressed: The government must have a specific policy on adjusting and regulating the basic goods' market. Mr. Nateq-Nuri added: The people and the Majles expect the government to act on the basis of a well-planned policy, setting the prices for the goods it produces itself, and strictly controlling and supervising those prices.

The Majles speaker continued by condemning the presence of U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf region and he again underscored that security in the region should be provided by the countries of the region. He said: We have consistently condemned the dismemberment of Iraq and we consider it to be a betrayal of the Iraqi people. He added: We support the protection of Iraq's independence and territorial integrity and that country must remain independent.

The Majles speaker also expressed his sorrow in connection with the crash of a passenger aircraft belonging to Aseman airline he conveyed his sympathy to the relatives of the victims.

Kharrazi Protests U.S. 'Illegal Activities'

LD1510092094 Tehran IRNA in English 0748 GMT 15 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Oct. 15, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran has renewed its protest against violation of the Iranian territory by the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region.

The letter, dated 10 October, was submitted by the Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Washington D.C. to the Embassy of Pakistan to be forwarded to the U.S. State Department.

Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi last Monday transmitted a copy of the note to the U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, calling upon him to circulate the note as a Security Council document.

The note was circulated as a Security Council document Friday.

The letter said that the U.S. warships positioned in the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf created a nuisance for Iranian sea-patrolling aircraft and helicopters on 19 and 31 May and 2 June.

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"The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran protests these illegal activities by the Government of the United States and calls for an end to such actions," the letter stressed.

In a similar note to the U.N. chief two weeks ago, Kharrazi protested against untimely war games of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman and called for an end to such actions.

IRNA Commentary on Persian Gulf Situation

LD1510215494 Tehran IRNA in English 2043 GMT 15 Oct 94

[IRNA commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 15 Oct (IRNA)—What are the goals of the Western powers behind their military presence in the Persian Gulf? Is Saddam Husayn of Iraq part of a secret deal? Is he intentionally collaborating with the Western powers to facilitate their presence in the Persian Gulf? Is the West really concerned about peace in the region as it claims or does it pursue other goals? In what way should we interpret the political and military mobilization of the West within such a short span in the Persian Gulf?

These, and many other questions are being asked by the alert Muslim people of the region. They suspect vested motives and view every development in the Persian Gulf with some degree of distrust and suspicion.

Some Persian Gulf specialists say the current development are part of a long-since prepared scenario. They say the West has launched out into a series of propaganda campaign since sometime ago in order to make sure that the current developments in the Persian Gulf would seem natural and justifiable to the peoples of the region.

An observer said here today that since the Persian Gulf war between the American-led alliance and Iraq in early 1991, Washington had apparently levelled many threats against Saddam Husayn without actually doing anything.

He noted that if the Americans truly considered Saddam as a threat to peace and stability in the region they could have eliminated this threat once and for all anytime during the past three years.

The Austrian Daily NEUE KRONEN ZEITUNG said in an article on Saturday 8th. September that the ticktack of the time bomb of the eventual encounter of the West and the Orient (over Islam) is being heard.

NEUE KRONEN ZEITUNG said Muslim 'fundamentalists' are now the staunchest enemies of 'democratic' regimes. It said with the disappearance of Communism, Islamic 'fundamentalism' is threatening the West.

The Austrian daily said Islamists intend to institute an Islamic statehood, and continued that on the ruins of the lost expectations of Arab Muslims under the shadow of Saddam Husayn's leadership which has been the cause of conflict between Arabs, they want to institute Islamic statehood.

It said in the Islamists threaten not only the West but also the governments of Muslim countries.

Tehran university professor, Dr 'Ali Moqarrebi, says the goal of the Western governments behind their mobilization in the Persian Gulf is not to do without Saddam Husayn, and for the time being they will not do that because they still need him and consider him a device for implementing their own schemes in the Persian Gulf.

He adds if the West should remove Saddam from power it will not then have any explanation for justifying its presence in the Persian Gulf and it will not be able to check the eventual rising of the long suppressed people of Iraq.

Moqarrebi says such an uprising might lead to the estalishment of an Islamic govenment in Iraq which will be a big threat to the West and the Zionist regime, the Persian Gulf sheikhdoms, and the Persian Gulf friends of the West. Political commentator of a Tehran-based Persian afternoon daily, VAFAKHAH, says that after the Persian Gulf war the West created some so-called safe havens on Iraqi soil. He adds the West is now trying to expand those safe havens into the buffer zone between Iraq and Kuwait in a bid to check the growth of Islamic tendencies in the region so that on the surface it will protect the sheikhs of the Persian Gulf but in reality will protect its own interests.

The recent statement of the American secretary of state in his meeting with his Kuwaiti counterpart is indication of the same idea, he notes.

VAFAKHAH refers to a recent issue of the British daily 'INDEPENDENT' which said if Saddam should lose, the danger will be the emergence of an 'uncontrollable democracy' in Iraq. It is likely that the poison of social freedoms and human rights will plague the American friends in the Middle East such as Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf sheikhdoms.

He points that THE INDEPENDENT had adopted a quasi sympathetic tone towards Iraq becuase the sanctions by the United States had harmed the Iraqis more than it had harmed Saddam Husayn.

A Pakistani political commentator recently said in an interview with a Pakistani daily that the United States does not mean to do anything to Saddam Husayn, but rather it intends to massacre the people of Iraq and check the emerging revolution in that country.

IRNA's commentator Mokhtari says Washington is in the Persian Gulf in a bid to strengthen the position of the Zionist regime, to suggest that conditions in the Persian Gulf are unsafe and insecure, and to rouse panic in the hearts of the sheikhs of the Persian Gulf.

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He says, for the Western governments it is very important that the sheikhdoms of the Persian Gulf feel that they need the U.S. and Europe in the Persian Gulf as well as their weapons, and every move of the Americans and the Europeans in the Persian Gulf aims at creating the same conviction with the sheikhdoms.

IRNA's Mokhtari adds that the Americans have been actively promoting this same thesis with the governments of the Persian Gulf so that the Arab governments will be led to believe that they will survive and they will have their rights and interests protected only if they agree to the leadership of the Americans in the region. That is true while the West, too, considers the Persian Gulf indespensible for its own life.

He opines that the U.S. does not want Iraq to be on the borders of Kuwait, and expects Iraq to mobilize forces northward and southward for confronting the revolutionaries. In his words both the U.S. and Iraq are trying to export their own internal problems.

Post-graduate economy student in Tehran, Mostafa Mardani, looks at the current developments economically saying the U.S. has been trying to cope with new economic problems since the coming to office of President Bill Clinton. He says Clinton is trying to sell more arms to the Persian Gulf states in a bid to solve U.S. problems.

He adds America needs more concessions from the sheikhs of the Persian Gulf states so that the Americans will be able to lessen their financial and economic worries for sometime in the future.

He thinks that if the situation is allowed to long laster [as received] the peoples of the Muslim states of the region will have to shoulder the heavy burden of shattered economies and foreign debts created by their statesmen.

Mardani adds that some days ago an English (UK) daily had quoted the U.S. secretary of the treasury as telling the Saudis that they should economize on expenses in a bid to cope with falling oil prices.

The problems, to which the U.S. secretary of the treasury has referred, has compelled the Saudis to reschedule their debts to the U.S. to have an additional year to paying off.

In addition, Saudi Arabia still has the problem of having to pay dlrs 21 billion as its share for the Persian Gulf war, he points out.

Mardani says oil is the only resource on which the Saudis rely, he says despite the approaching cold season the West is getting very cheap oil from Saudi Arabia which is in fact a free gist to the West. The Americans too, are showing sympathy towards the Saudis for the same reason, he adds.

The U.K. daily INDEPENDENT had said that the U.S. secretary of the treasury had observed because of their oil resources the Saudis continued to have good credit with the Americans.

Another Tehran university professor, Mrs. Maryam Alavi, says the Washington has caused a tumultuous situation in the Persian Gulf and while launching a propaganda war, it has given Arabs the good hope of rising oil prices.

She says the sheikhdoms of the Persian Gulf will be delighted to see that oil exports by Iraq have been halted, and the situation will strengthen in them the mentality of relying more on the Americans.

Dr. Alavi says the Persian Gulf states are dependent on the U.S. and the U.S. is exploiting their dependence on it for leading them to a compromise with the Zionist regime that will give them no concessions.

She says that is the reason why in the wake of the launching of the propaganda campaign of the West in the Persian Gulf one sees the junketting to the Persian Gulf capitals of American foreign policy administrators.

Military affairs expert Ahmad Rezaei says Washington has to demonstrate its capacity to protect the arabs of the Persian Gulf, it is, therefore, taking advantage of the tumultuous situation in the Persian Gulf to demonstrate to the littoral Arab states that they can count on America's capacity to protect them. That is particularly ideal for the Americans since far from being costly the mobilization of the U.S. forces even generates revenue for the Americans.

Rezaei says that for its own sake, Washington too, needs to have some degree of confidence that the Arabs of the Persian Gulf states will want to depend on the U.S. at critical moments.

He points out that the Austrian daily NEUE KRONEN ZEITUNG said in the same article (8 Sept.) that the Arab states of the Persian Gulf are even unable to manufacture their own weapons and have to buy them from the West. Saudi Arabia is one of the most despotic regimes of the world and that the fake calm in Saudi Arabia has been possible only by importing luxury Western-made commodities.

Rezaei quotted the U.S. defense secretary as saying that if the current troops mobilization should continue it would cost the Americans billions of dollars.

The Western media has voiced similar feelings with similar motives reminding that by paying enormous sums of money to the Western governments the Persian Gulf states had managed to escape an imminent threat that was menacing their individual sovereignty.

The same media have recently referred to the current situation in the Persian Gulf saying if the present unrest should continue in the Persian Gulf and if the situation be allowed to deteriorate the Arab governments of the region would then have to expend billions of more dollars.

Agence France Presse (AFP) also recently referred to the recent statements of the U.S. defense secretary saying

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that the cost of the bulk of the present military mobilization would be shouldered by Arab governments of the Persian Gulf.

Military expert Rezaei said Iraq's military mobilization offered the Americans a quasi excuse for dispatching their forces to the sensitive Persian Gulf.

He said it seems that under the cover of concern for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait the United States has planned to continue its military and physical presence in the Persian Gulf for a long time in the future which, he says, will obviously be far from benefitting the regional countries.

Foreign Ministry Seen Contradicting Policy

NC1510211194 Tehran SALAM in Persian 9 Oct 94 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "Diplomatic Actions and the Official Stance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The lifting of the economic boycott on the Zionist regime by the reactionary Arabs of the littoral states of the Persian Gulf can be considered a turning point in the trend toward compromise, exposing their leanings toward opening a chapter of political interaction with Tel Aviv. Conversely, the widespread opposition by the nationalistic-Islamic circles in the region to this move by the Persian Gulf littoral states should also be considered a natural reaction resulting from the anti-Zionist sentiments of the Muslim nations in the region.

The categoric stance of the leader and the top-level officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran in condemning such actions can be construed as an emphasis on the durable values of the system and the Revolution's irreconcilable stance toward the Zionist entity.

It is obvious that the declaration of the stance of our system should also manifest itself in the actions of our executive officials. If we perceive anything contradictory to our declared stance in the actions of our officials, foreigners and those who are judging us from the outside will certainly not consider it an aberration on the part of the lower rungs of our hierarchy, but will construe it as a serious attempt on the part of our system to act in contravention of its declared stance, which would only engulf it in a haze of doubt and ambiguity.

In matters of international affairs, international circles are constantly examining under a microscope the actions of our foreign affairs apparatus—that is, the Foreign Ministry. While we rightfully call the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] a traitor for revoking the boycott against the Zionists, how is it to be interpreted when at the same time our deputy foreign minister goes on a visit to Egypt, the regime of which was a pioneer in treachery to the aspirations of the Arabs and Palestine and which is close to Zionism?

It is not important to enter into a discussion here of whether it is necessary to forge ties with Egypt or not, or whether the visit was arranged by a nonpolitical university staff member. The Foreign Ministry officials should know that the political fallout of these actions at the current juncture is of special importance because it gives the impression that Iran is lobbying for a normalization of relations with Egypt, as if to say that it has forgiven Egypt's sin of signing the Camp David Accord, which prompted ties to be severed. Why should the conduct of the officials of a ministry generate such doubts when our official stance is to the contrary?

Will the Persian Gulf shaykhs not state that since Egypt's transgression was many time greater than their own crimes today, we will also overlook their misdeeds and there will be no harm done? Our country's diplomatic apparatus is expected to explain and delineate our declared stances and not undermine them and render them ineffective!

Minister Advised To Cancel Visit to Egypt

NC1510202294 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 1 Oct 94 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "A Reward for the Pharaoh of Egypt"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In international parlance, it is the usual practice for both governments strike a bal[illegible]e in forging relations with one another. For exampl[illegible] official of one country makes a remark against [illegible] the government which has been subjected to th[illegible]a-ganda attack immediately reacts, which could [illegible] a propagandist attack, a downgrading of relatio[illegible]a official protest.

These conventional practices are commented upon in our Foreign Ministry according to individual or party preferences. Many instances have been observed when a government has taken a hostile step against the Islamic Republic of Iran or when an intolerable propagandist attack has been made against Iran but our Foreign Ministry has failed to take an appropriate reaction. It does not even change anything pertaining to policies that are based on tastes and whims of individuals for fear of hurting them.

A specific faction which favors normalization of relations with Egypt is demanding that, as far as possible, a completely controlled version of reports pertaining to Egypt be disseminated; no sensitivity should be displayed with regard to the atrocities perpetrated by the Egyptian Pharaoh against the people and the Islamist movement; even the irresponsible utterances of the Egyptian officials against the Islamic Republic of Iran's interests should go unanswered.

This is in fact an example of the attitude that overshadows the aforementioned conventional practice in international affairs. Last week, Husni Mubarak, the Pharaoh of Egypt said in an interview with AL-AHRAM

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newspaper: "Iran is the source of all sedition and trouble." It was expected that our Foreign Ministry would react to the gibberish spewed by the Pharaoh of Egypt. Not only did this not happen, a delegation led by the deputy foreign minister for research and training went on a visit to Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia, ostensibly at the invitation of the chancellor of Cairo University and the Institute of Strategic Studies according to a preplanned program, which had been drawn up on Thursday.

Regardless of the need for such visits and the objectives that are pursued in this way, the visit by a deputy foreign minister—even under the flimsy guise of accepting an invitation by a chancellor of a university and a strategic studies institute—essentially has a political bias.

Who does not know that Egypt's university and strategic studies institute only act within the jurisdiction of the head of the Cairo regime? Thus, the implication of the visit by the deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran in these conditions is quite clear, especially since the categorical stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to refrain from forging relations with the Mubarak regime due to its extreme servility to the United States in the region and its signing of the disgraceful Camp David Accord. In such circumstances, is not such a visit a reward for the pharaoh of Egypt?

As mentioned in the report, the deputy foreign minister is to visit Egypt after Morocco and Tunis. Thus, the Foreign Ministry still has time to review its decision and if—as is common international parlance—it defends the Islamic Republic of Iran's interests, it should react appropriately in response to the Egyptian pharaoh's remark last week that the Islamic Republic of Iran's government is the source of destruction and trouble, and it should cancel the visit by the deputy foreign minister to Cairo.

Motives of Velayati's Iraq Visit Questioned

NC1610214294 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 6 Oct 94 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "An Untimely Step"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the sidelines of the meeting between Dr. Velayati and the Iraqi foreign minister at the United Nations, it was announced that Dr. Velayati would soon visit Iraq. Even though no official statement has been issued by Iran on this visit so far, the silence on the part of our Foreign Ministry is evidence of the possibility of this trip in the near future.

In the current circumstances, the stances and decisions of the Baghdad government highlight the need to ponder the importance and sensitivity of our political approach with regard to Iraq. There is no doubt that the strengthening of relations between two neighboring Muslim countries is our longstanding desire. However, as long as the Baghdad rulers continue their insistence on their dubious anti-Islamic policies, it would be wrong for us to take the initiative to deepen and broaden our relations.

Baghdad has reported incorrectly that the number of Iranian POWs in Iraq was 39,044 and that all of them were released under the supervision of the International Red Cross. Subsequently, it announced that Iran had retained some Iraqi POWs and was not releasing them. This lying report is evidence of the lack of goodwill on the part of Baghdad. Documentary evidence exists to prove that a number of our noble youths are still languishing in the fearsome Iraqi dungeons and that the Iraqi Government is subjecting them to medieval ways of torture and refuses to provide any information on their condition.

By conducting covert negotiations with the Zionists, the Iraqi Government is seeking to elicit U.S. support for the lifting of economic sanctions so that it can extricate itself from this isolation. The policy of rapproachment with the Zionists indicates the contradictory stances of Baghdad and the complicated game being played by the Ba'th party leaders. It is obvious that such a regime cannot be a friend that can be relied upon in the event of improved relations.

Baghdad is playing an important role in inciting the Arabic publications of the region, especially of the United Arab Emirates, against Iran in order to extricate Baghdad and embroil Iran in important regional issues. That is the way it wants to capitalize on the situation to consolidate its own unstable condition.

Iraq's overt support of the Monafeqin [hypocrites—reference to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] in all instances indicates Baghdad's continued hostility to the Government and people of Iran. In an interview with AL-HAYAH, the leader of the Monafeqin recently stated, based on documented proof, that all the actions by this terrorist group were carried out with the knowledge and concurrence of Baghdad. This proves that Baghdad has played a role in all the terroristic actions of this group.

The only factor that could justify this untimely step is the Iranian Muslim people's fervor to visit the holy shrines of the Infallible Imams, especially in the cities of Karbala', al-Najaf, Kazemayn, and al-Samarrah. However, despite their prolonged wait and their immense love and brimming enthusiasm for these, the Iranian people are not prepared to rely on a regime that continues its inimical stance against the Iranian nation.

Our foreign ministry should not take the initiative in broadening relations with Iraq without clearing up the ambiguities surrounding Iran-Iraq relations. The Iraqi regime should first clarify the situation regarding the Iranian POWs; it should cease its tyranny and cruelty against the Muslims, eliminate the presence of the Monafeqin in that country, change its hostile stances, and learn a lesson from its past. Otherwise, there is no justification for any broadening of relations with Iraq.

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Those who present a profusion of simplistic analyses in support of this move are giving priority to political expediencies over values and revolutionary stances. Theirs is a personal perspective with no principled or logical justification.

In fact, it is not even politically expedient for us to forge such relations, which would only serve to further strengthen the anti-Islamic, misanthropic Baghdad regime. It would be rather simplistic to state that we should take the ostensibly anti-Saddam slogans of the United States seriously and imagine that we should take a similar approach to relations with Iraq. Are we and Iraq equally desirous of implementing the U.S. desire for normalized relations with Israel? One has to be rather ignorant to suppose that the stances of Iran and Iraq are similar based on certain objectives. Both premises would be opposed to our national interests.

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